

Mint W. O.  
Sept. 2. 1839.

Dear Sir, Let me have the pleasure of in-  
troducing to you Mr. Horace C. Cammack,  
who has been recently appointed Treasurer  
of the New Orleans Dr. Mint. I am well as-  
sured both from the recommendations of  
others, and my own intercourse with him,  
that he is a gentleman possessed of the  
character, energy & skill required for the  
office which he is called upon to fill.

Yr. M. P.

To/  
 Rufus Tyler, Esq.  
Comr. N. O. Dr. Mint.



Mint of the W. I. —  
Sept. 2. 1839.

Dear Sir,

I send you herewith two  
or three letters of introduction. It is possible  
that I may not be able to call on you  
this evening, and, at all events, I wish you  
not to stay at home for the chance of  
receiving me.

I pray you to write to me freely,  
on your taking office. I particularly  
beg you to seek for a suitable candi-  
date to fill Mr Maxwell's place.

Believe me, very resptly  
& faithfully, yr.  
R. M. P.

To

St. A. G. Amineac 1839.

Mansion House Hotel.



Unit of the M. S.  
Sept. 2. 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor of introducing to you, Horace C. Cammack, Esq., newly appointed to be Treasurer of the M. S. Branch Unit at New Orleans. Mr. Cammack has passed some days with us here, - I hope usefully. He goes on immediately to assume the duties of his office.

I have rec'd a letter to-day from the Officer of the New Orleans Unit, of which the intelligence is favorable. There are no new deaths, & the sick are generally convalescent.

N. M. S.

To Hon. Levi Woodbury }  
Sec. of Treasury



U. S. Branch Mint, N. Orleans  
Dec. 26. 1839

Sir,

You will find on the next page, a copy of a letter sent to me some days ago by our Assayer. I am requested by Dr. Hunt to say to you, that with a view to avoid, if possible, again troubling you in relation to his assay balance, he had it examined, on two different occasions, by persons residing out of the Mint, there being no one, I presume within the establishment, since the death of the late Cooper, competent to put it in order. He has ascertained that the defect cannot be rectified here. If it had exclusively in the knife edge, its removal would be attended with little or no difficulty, but it reaches the "bevelled surface" and this makes it necessary, that application be again made to you.

Is it in your power to have us another assay balance made in your Mint?

Very respectfully

Your obed<sup>t</sup> servant

J. M. McKim

Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq.



(copy)

Sir

In 1838 and again this year, I reported in writing to the late Superintendent that there was a defect in my assay balance, which remained impossible that should ensure accuracy which is so important in my department. Mr. Paterson was willing to enquire the subject, and each time I was referred to the late coinier, who examined it, pointed out the defects, promised to rectify them, but who unfortunately never found time to do it.

The first defect pointed out was in the knife edge, but a greater one, & the cause of the former, was in the bevelled support, which are designed to keep the knife edge in its place, but which do not rise high enough to accomplish that object, and are too loose in their play. The effect of this is to shake the knife edge on one side at a time, irregularly, and with a jerk, which must necessarily in a very short time, dull the fine edge of the knife. The balance should be sensible to  $\frac{1}{10}$  of a milligram, but it is barely sensible to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a milligram; that is, it requires  $\frac{1}{2}$  mg to turn the balance, so that altho' I may be sometimes quite accurate, I am always liable to an error - on my part unavoidable, of from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 milligram, which is a very serious matter, when Gold is weighed. I have it my duty to communicate this fact to you and remain

Very respectfully yours

(Signed) Wm. P. Wood



Mint of the U.S.,  
Decr 23d. 1839.

Sir,

I have just rec'd your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup>,  
inst. in reference to the charge for your services  
as Notary Public, during the investigation at the  
New Orleans Mint. The information which you  
ask, was communicated, to the Superintendent of  
that Mint, in a letter of the 3<sup>d</sup>, inst. and has  
probably been already made known to you by him,  
or, if not, will be so whenever you please to call  
on him. The matter is now in his hands, though  
it may not be in his power to settle your account  
until the new appropriations are made.

Very respectfully,

Yours &c — Sear.

To  
Horatio Davis, Esq.  
Notary Public,  
New Orleans.



Mint of the U.S.  
Dec. 23<sup>d</sup>, 1839.

Sir,

A letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. just rec<sup>d</sup>  
from the Superintendent of the N. Orleans Mint,  
mentions that the new Melted Refiner, Dr.  
Biddell, was in his place, and would probably  
enter upon the discharge of his duties the following day.

Very respectfully,  
Your faithful serv<sup>t</sup>.

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury  
Secy. of the Treasury.



Mint of the U.S. State,  
Decr. 23<sup>d</sup>. 1839.

Sir,

On the 20<sup>th</sup>, I rec<sup>d</sup>. through the  
Secy. of the Treasury, a box transmitt<sup>d</sup> by you,  
containing the coins reserved at your Mint for  
the annual assay, and I have this day rec<sup>d</sup>.  
your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. with the list of these  
coins. The coins reserved, you will please to  
send, in the same manner, at the close of the year.

I am much pleased to learn that  
Dr. Ridgell is in his place, and was on the point  
of entering upon the discharge of his new duties as  
Melter & Refiner. I hope to receive his bond in  
without delay, and notice that the arrangements  
mentioned in my letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> have been made.

Very respectfully,  
Chas. F. Smith

To J. M. Kennedy Esq.  
Sup. of Br. Mint,  
New Orleans



Alb. M. S.  
Dec. 20 / 39.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge  
the receipt of your letter of the 18th inst.,  
with an enclosure containing the memorial  
crims for the amount already trans-  
mitted from the New Orleans office.

I have no further information  
from this point, since that conveyed  
in the letter of Mr. Cammack, of  
which I sent you a copy & on the 16th  
inst.

R. M. P.

Wm. Levi Prosbury }  
Sec. of Treasury.



Treasury Department  
Dec. 18. 1839.

Sir,

I transmit by this Mail to your  
address - a box received this morning from the Branch  
Mint at N. Orleans. contents not known.

Very Respectfully

Levi Woodbury  
Sec. of the Treasury

D. W. M. Patterson  
Philad<sup>a</sup>.



Mint of the U. S.  
Dec. 17. 1839.

Sir,

My anxiety was much relieved by learning, from a letter of Mr. Cammack, that Dr. Riddell had arrived at your post, tho' he had not yet been at the Mint. I immediately informed the Secretary of the Treas<sup>y</sup> of the fact, for Dr. Riddell's long delay had caused much uneasiness at the Department. I hope that no time has been lost in taking the preliminary steps necessary to his entering upon the discharge of his duties.

Mr. Cammack informs me that there has been a delivery of ingots to the Com<sup>r</sup>, and of Coins made from these ingots to the Treasurer. You are of course aware that this proceeding is entirely irregular, altho' dictated by a very commendable zeal. You will see that the transaction, so far as it concerns the Department of the Mint & Refiner, be assumed by Dr. Riddell, as his act, and done under his responsibility. It must be transferred to his account on the books, and



a distinct statement of the transaction. This is all that can now be done as to a proceeding which I could not have advised.

I will thank you to present to me, at the earliest day after the close of the year, a statement of the operations of your Branch, up to that time, with any other information or suggestions which you may deem important, forming annual report to the President.

I send enclosed an account of the process of working gold ingots, drawn up at the request of your Coiner, Mr. Tyler, and which I will thank you to give to him.

R. M. P.

D.

(L)

Gen. M. Kennedy, Esq.  
Supt. Br. Mint,  
New Orleans.



U. S. Branch Mint New Orleans  
Dec. 17. 1839

R. M. Patterson Esq.

Sir,

Dr. Hoot informs me that when he estimated the ex-  
-penses of this Branch Mint for 1840 at \$60,000, it  
was not without consulting with Mr. Cammack, and  
taking into consideration those of former years -  
We cannot get along without a porter and two or  
three labourers over and above the number allowed -  
The wages, of these as well as of the night guard  
the number of which we have been obliged to  
increase, are paid from the contingent fund. I  
think that with \$60,000 we will require no addi-  
-tional sum to pay the bill of Mr. Davis - Mr.  
Slidell says that he will make his charge after  
the claim of Mr. D. will have been settled - He  
will look to our Mint, I think, for payment, altho  
his opinion is, that if he had been left, without  
any inquiry on the subject, he would not have  
thought himself entitled to any compensation at all.



Will you be so kind as to obtain from the  
proper department, a statement of the different  
commitments made to the Mint since it first went  
into operation, with the amounts appropriated to  
each particular branch -

I am very respectfully

Yours &c &c

J. McKim

Sept



Mint W. D.

Dec. 16. 1839.

Sir,

Answering your anxiety respecting the long continued absence of Dr. Riddell from the New-Orleans Mint, and the delay in commencing its operations, I send you herewith a copy of a letter just received from Mr. Cammack.

The making of ingots & their delivery to the Comr, may perhaps be justified by the urgent & peculiar circumstances of the Case, - but it was certainly irregular, and must be assumed by Dr. Riddell, as his own act, after he shall enter upon his official functions. I will give the proper instructions as to this matter.

R. M. P.  
D.

At  
Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Sec. of Treasury.



Mint of the United States,  
December 14. 1859.

Sir,

Your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. ~~prescribed~~  
~~prescribed~~ informs me of certain Account Books & Forms which  
~~are wanting~~ <sup>are found</sup> in your Institution, upon an investigation lately requested  
by me. made according to my request.

In the Memorandum Book of Assay Coins, &c. your  
Treasurer may take any small blank book, and open a single  
entry account in a form satisfactory to himself. A clear statement  
of dates, facts, and moneys, is all that is desired - the account  
being merely of an auxiliary or secondary character.

The same direction applies to the Book of Approp-  
riations. A plain exhibition of the items appropriated by Con-  
gress, and the sums drawn on account thereof, will be sufficient,  
and a suitable form will easily be agreed on between Mr.  
Cammack and yourself.

Printed forms of the Warrants A, B, C, are sent  
herewith. You will please to have similar ones printed, and  
bound. - Specimens of the <sup>proper</sup> ~~usual~~ indorsements are also given. -

In regard to the Warrant D, your Treasurer will observe, that  
the entries, in ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~indorsement~~ <sup>indorsement</sup> thereof, will be to charge "Silver Coinage", &  
credit "Profit & Loss," on the Bullion Books, and to charge "Incidental



and Contingent Expenses" and credit "The Treasurer of the Branch Mint" on the Ordinary Books.

The Miller & Rife's Ledger, exhibiting his accounts by the monthly warrants to is a counterpart of the Ledger entries by the Treasurer, in account with the first-named Officer. - From this book the M & R's quarterly returns are abstracted.

The three books which your Criner mentions, are probably in sufficient form; but there should also be a Ledger, similar to that above mentioned, as a check upon the Treasurer's Account, and as a basis for quarterly abstracts.

It is very satisfactory to me, to learn that your Treasurer has forwarded copies to Washington, abstracts of the accounts of the Mint, from the commencement of its operations. - ~~There~~ There is something remarkable in the fact stated by him, that after allowing for wastage, there is still a credit to Profit & Loss, of \$3741.94. In your next communication, will you please to inform me from what sources principally, so considerable a credit was derived?

The right course has been taken, in the case of the  $8\frac{4}{100}$  ozs. of gold, due Messrs. Lizardi & Co. I would suggest, that that house ought to be apprized of the fact, if it can be imagined that they are ignorant of it.

The request of your Criner for this for 1840, has been attended to, and full set is in ~~the~~ <sup>the course of preparation</sup>. The balances & weights attested for shall also be sent as soon as they ~~can~~ <sup>can</sup> be procured.

J. M. Kennedy Esq. {  
Supdt. M. & B. M. }



U. S. Branch Mint

N. O. Dec. 12. 1839

R. M. Patterson Esq.<sup>d</sup>

Sir,

A few days ago Mr. Parker, our late weigher, presented a bill for four months' salary, from July, August, Sept. & Oct. amounting to \$400. - Upon a memorandum which Mr. Dimity, the late Treasurer's clerk handed to Mr. Cammack, Parker was charged, on acc<sup>t</sup> of salary with \$50, which Mr. C. took, to be part of that due him at the time the Mint suspended operations, and entered it accordingly in the accounts transmitted by him to the Gen<sup>l</sup> Depart<sup>t</sup> - It appears however from Mr. Parker's statement which is corroborated by Dr. Hort, that the \$50 which he rec<sup>d</sup> from Dimity was an old balance left by him in the hands of the latter, and had nothing to do with his salary for the period mentioned in his bill -

Mr. Cammack has retained the \$50, requesting you to say whether they shall be charged







Mint of the U. S.  
Dec. 11. 1839.

Sir,  
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th inst., and in compliance with the specific instructions <sup>which you have</sup> therein given, the Treasurer of the Mint has opened a special account as depository of the public money with the Treasurer of the United States, and has credited the Treasurer of the U. S. in that account with \$30,000 deposited by the Collector of Philadelphia, and \$8,000 as a deposit by James W. Breckinridge, late Collector of New Orleans. A copy of this account signed by the Treasurer of the Mint, is transmitted to the Secretary of the U. S., by the present mail, in obedience to your instructions.

R. M. P.

To Hon. Levi Woodbury }  
Sec. of Treas.



Treasury Department  
December 10. 1839.

Sir,

I learn from a communication received this morning from N. Orleans, that the operations of the Branch Mint at that place are still suspended in consequence of the absence of the Melter and Refiner lately appointed. As it appears to be quite uncertain when that officer may be expected to enter on the duties of his office - permit me to enquire whether some arrangement cannot be made so that the operations of the Mint may be carried on without waiting longer for his arrival.

If not, should not another person be appointed? I remain very Resp<sup>tly</sup>

Y<sup>rs</sup> Obed<sup>t</sup> S<sup>t</sup>

Sam<sup>l</sup> Woodbury  
Secy of the Treasury

J. R. M. Patterson  
Director of the Mint  
Philad<sup>a</sup>



New Orleans December 9<sup>th</sup> 1859

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> & am grateful for the prompt attention you did me the favor to bestow on me.

I pray you, Sir, to excuse me if the pressure, which I feel in common with so many others, emboldens me to request of you to advise me of any thing that it may be necessary for me to do, in order to obtain the decision of the department at Washington.

Very Respectfully,  
Your most obedient

To  
Doctor R. M. Patterson Librarian  
Director U. S. Mint  
Philadelphia



W. S. Branch Mount  
New Orleans, December 9<sup>th</sup> 1839.

R. M. Patterson Esq<sup>r</sup>

Sir,

By yesterday's mail, I sent to the Secretary of  
the Treasury, to be by him transmitted to you, a box  
containing some gold and silver coins reserved for  
the annual assay, of which the enclosed is a  
Memorandum.

Dr. Reddell arrived from Texas, two or three days  
ago. - He has accepted his Commission of Master  
of Refiners, and will, probably tomorrow, commence  
operations in his department.

I am very respectfully

Y<sup>r</sup> ob<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

J. McKimney

Sept.



Sir

I have just heard that Dr Riddle  
has arrived in a Steam Boat which came in  
an hour ago from Galveston.

With the assistance of Mr Lewis  
I have been able to get ingots of silver  
enough made to keep the Coiner at work,  
tho' not as many as he could have used.

I hope that we may yet, before the 1st of  
January, be able to pay all the certificates  
we have out.

Today the first delivery of Coins was  
made by Mr Tyler - 50,000 pieces. -

I am truly yours  
H. C. Hammond

Sr

Dr R. M. Patterson.

Thursday Evg

December 5-1859.



Minist of the United States.  
Dist. Col., 1839.

Sir,

I send enclosed a copy of the estimate, which I have presented to the Department of your <sup>the</sup> expenses at your Minist for the year 1840. I had requested an estimate from the late Superintendent, and one was sent to me by Dr. Hunt who acted in his place at the time. The amount was \$60,000, - the contingent expenses and outlays being set down at \$25,000. We are unable to make out so large a sum, and I think it very undesirable, under the circumstances of your institution, to ask more of Congress than is absolutely necessary. Still, if you are of opinion that you cannot get on with my estimate, it is not too late to correct it, and I will apply, for that purpose, to the Committee of Ways & Means, if you request it.

One item which may make an



addition to the estimate necessary,  
has been presented to me, in the  
bill from Horatio Davis which I  
send enclosed to you, with I an-  
swer to an inquiry, respecting the  
payment of this bill, which I ad-  
dressed to the Secretary of the Treasury,  
he sent me the reply of which a copy  
is annexed. Under his instructions  
you will see that Mr. Davis's  
charge has to be paid out of your  
Mint funds, and you will do so  
if it be in your power. If not,  
or if the payment will trench too  
much upon your next year's esti-  
mate, an additional amount  
must be asked of Congress, and if  
this you will please to inform me.  
I wish that you would also ascertain  
Mr. Shidell's charge, and learn  
from him whether he looks for pay-  
ment to the Mint or to the Depart-  
ment at Washington of the Attorney  
General.

I have been ~~not a little~~ embarrassed  
by the application made on behalf of  
Mr. Cumack for alterations in his  
apartments at the Mint, - so much  
am I afraid of additional expen-  
se at this time. If you deem  
the alterations necessary, however,  
and think they cannot be conver-  
santly postponed, I presume you  
would be justified in providing  
for the comfortable accommodation  
of the Treasury, whose residence  
at the Mint is very desirable for  
the public service. I was sorry  
to learn, too late, that the wing  
of the Mint, set apart as a resi-  
dence, was not built according to  
my wishes. - I do not think that  
any charge for erecting Stables would pass  
the audit at Washington. Even the  
residence at the Mint was not con-  
templated originally, and is now per-  
mitted on account of the greater secu-  
rity and facility in transacting the  
public business. On what ground







U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans  
December 1<sup>st</sup> 1839.

R. M. Patterson Esquire

Sir,

In accordance with your communication touching the books and accounts of the Mint, an examination had been made in every department of this Establishment, which shows the following books and found to be wanting.

Treasurer's Office

- I
- K. Memorandum book of assay coin &c, being an account between the Treasurer of this Mint, and the Director at Philad<sup>a</sup>.
  - L. Book of appropriations, exhibiting the sum appropriated by Government &c.

Superintendent's Office

- II
- A \* Warrants for the pay<sup>t</sup> of certificates of gold deposits
  - B Do do do do Silver do
  - L Warrants to the Treasurer, authorizing him to draw from the contingent fund to balance the account of profit & loss in bullion.

\* Such for the endorsement of the person in whose favor the certificate issued was considered sufficient.



Metter & Refiner's Office

- I E Ledger exhibiting his account of the monthly transactions  
 III A Treasurer's account of gold in account with the  
 M. & R.  
 B D. — do — Silver —

In a report from the Corner, that officer says -

- "I have not been able to find any of the books  
 necessary for the accounts of my department  
 corresponding with those designated by the  
 Director - The only books kept by my pre-  
 decessor, were three books of entry -  
 1<sup>st</sup> for the receipt of ingots  
 2<sup>nd</sup> " " - delivery of coins  
 3<sup>rd</sup> " " - do - of clippings"

The assayer reports, that he has "all the books requi-  
 red in the assay department, and that they have been  
 regularly kept from the beginning of the operations of  
 the Mint."

In relation to those parts of your communication  
 referring to the bringing up of the books, and  
 the settlement of the wastage of the late  
 Metter & Refiner, and Corner, allow me to make  
 a few extracts from a report received from Mr.  
 Cornwell.

"Since the books of this department have been  
 brought up, I have forwarded to the Secretary of the  
 Treasury full copies of all the general accounts in  
 the books, showing the operations of the Mint since  
 its commencement, made out according to the forms  
 which were found amongst the papers of this  
 Office, and which I believe will give all the  
 information wanted by the Department at Wash-  
 ington"

"Profit & Loss account has been debited with  
 the wastage allowed to the late Metter & Refi-  
 ner and Corner, and there is still to the credit  
 of that account the sum of \$3741.<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub>, and  
 will not consequently require any draft on the  
 Contingent fund"

"The surplus gold in Mr. Maxwell's account  
 without any allowance to him for wastage on  
 the gold passed through his hands is \$7<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> of  
 which has been entered to the credit of Profit &  
 Loss, and charged to Gold Bullion"

"I find no account on the books of the \$696<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> of  
 stand. gold found in the silver deposits of Messrs.  
 Legard & Co. - The amount will now be ascribed  
 to Messrs. Legard & Co. and placed to the debit  
 of the late Treasurer."



I am glad to find that you properly appreciated  
the worth of our present Treasurer. He is truly an  
excellent officer - I have left with him the choice  
of his own Clerk, and he has selected a young gentle-  
man by the name of Wickes, who stands deservedly  
high in his confidence - Mr. Bertrand, whom I  
have appointed Weigher, came to me very strongly  
recommended - Of his qualifications, in every respect,  
I think there is no doubt.

D<sup>r</sup>. Riddell it is said, will certainly be here by  
the 10.<sup>th</sup> of this month -

I have the honor to be

Respectfully

J<sup>r</sup>. Smith & Son

J. McKim

Sept



U. S. Branch Mint N. Orleans  
Nov. 29. 1839.

P. M. Patterson Esquire

Sir -

I have rec<sup>d</sup>. a report from <sup>Mr. Taylor</sup> which I beg leave to  
make the following extracts -

" I would call your attention to the propriety of  
sending for the coining dies, in time to have  
them fitted to the press, before the com-  
mencement of 1840."

" I would also request you to furnish me  
with a set of scales and small weights  
in place of those formerly used in my  
department, now claimed by the Assayer.  
The predecessor had adopted a very good  
mode of adjusting coins by which scales of  
that size and quality are required. The  
weights will be convenient for other purposes  
if procured in 93 - dwt. & gr. as I believe there  
is not at the present time any of that denomi-  
nation in the Mint."

" I find in my department weights marked  
for the different denominations of coins,  
but have no means of ascertaining their



"Correctness, and I should be pleased to  
have you send to the Mother Mint for  
a copy of the Standard Weights for each  
of the different denominations of coins."

If you would have the goodness to comply as  
soon as practicable, with the foregoing request,  
you would oblige me exceedingly.

I will send you, tomorrow, or on the next day,  
a report, upon your communication, touching  
the books and accounts of the Mint -

I have the honor to be

respectfully

Yours obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

J. M. McKim

Sept.

I forgot to mention that the seals  
referred to by the Com<sup>r</sup> are those  
sent out by you to St. Host  
for the hundred weights, and  
which were left by him for some time  
with the late Mr. Rufus Tyler.



Treasury Department  
Nov. 30 1839

Sir,

Your communication enclosing the bill  
from Horatio Davis for his services during the investigation  
at the Branch Mint at N. Orleans, has been received.

In reply I have to remark, that a compensation, which  
appears to you to be reasonable should be paid out of the  
Mint funds on which it would seem to form a proper  
charge.

Should your means not be, at present, sufficient  
it will be advisable to ask for an additional sum next  
year to enable you to pay what may seem just & proper.  
I remain very Respy

Genl Woodbury  
Sec. of the Treasury

D. W. M. Patterson  
Philad<sup>a</sup>



Mint M. S.  
Nov. 27/39.

Sir,

I have the honor to send en-  
closed the Bond of Philip B. Tyler  
Esq., ~~and~~ Coiner of the Branch Mint at  
New Orleans, with my certificate  
that it finds it satisfactory. Mr.  
Tyler's oath of office is appended to  
the Bond.

I am sorry to hear, from Mr.  
Stemmy, that Dr. Riddell, who  
is appointed Master & Refiner, has  
not yet returned from Texas, and  
has not been heard from since his  
appointment. He ~~was~~ looked for daily,  
but, in the mean time, the operations of  
the Mint must ~~be~~ necessarily <sup>be</sup> sus-  
pended.

P. M. P.

D

To/ Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.



Albion Mass

Nov. 25/39.

Sir, Your letter of the 12th inst. has been received, together with your account for services rendered during the investigation at the New Orleans office. In consequence of an uncertainty as to the fund from which this expense is to be defrayed, I am under the necessity of referring the matter to the Department at Washington. On receiving <sup>my</sup> instructions upon the case, I will write to you again, and hope that no difficulty will be presented <sup>as to</sup> an early settlement of your account.

P. M. P.

Sr

H. A. Davis, Esq  
Notary Public,  
New Orleans.



Treasurer's Office U. S. Branch Mint  
New Orleans November 25 1837

Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt this day of your letter of 14th instant. enclosing a cheque for \$100. on the Girard Bank of Philadelphia. The late Treasurer's Contingent account was accompanied by proper receipts & vouchers, with no other any inflicting exceptions. and they were forwarded by me to the Secretary of the Treasury.

The Certificate to Bragues was paid before same was app'd, and the amount of the error \$25<sup>00</sup> has been placed to the debit of the late Treasurer. We have not been able to find the depositor.

A portion of the 72<sup>50</sup>. Short in the Silver Bullion account was for an error found to have been made in weighing bullion after melting received from James W. Zacharie & Co. - say 80 73. which infers Zacharie & Co. into refund.

I have lately discovered that a bar of Silver weighing 82<sup>70</sup>. oz. which I received from Mr. Forstall, and for want of a proper explanation entered to his credit as part of his bullion, belongs to a deposit made by Zacharie & Co. on 25 July. but was not entered to his credit. I have now debited Mr. Forstall and Credited Zacharie & Co. with the amount.



Our bills drawn by the late superintendent on you on  
5 August last, and charged in your late account,  
have not been entered in the books of this office in  
any manner. They are as follows

four Edmund Forrestals and endorsed  
to Chas B. Burmstead . . . . . \$450.-

four the same endorsed  
to James Clearwell . . . . . 75.-

Mr Forrestal can give no explanation about this business  
but he thinks the money was received for the drafts when  
they were issued.

Dr Beale has not arrived, which I regret very  
much. A steamer boat will arrive in two days from  
Texas, and he will no doubt be in her. A recent letter  
from him, mentions his intention to be here by the 1st  
proximo.

Mr Levitt, foreman of the late  
Mills & Refiner, has melted the various deposits lately  
received, and he thinks he can make ingots of  
the proper standard, tho in one trial which we  
permitted <sup>him to make</sup> he did not quite succeed.

I am, with much respect

your faithful servant

H. C. Hammon

Chas.

To

Dr R. M. Patterson

Director U. S. Mint

Herewith are enclosed duplicate receipts for the 1500 Dollars  
as required -



Mint of the U. S.  
Nov. 21. '39.

Sir, Your bond has been duly recd., & I have sent it to the Dept., with a certificate that it was <sup>to</sup> my satisfaction.

The Order accompanying your letter of the 9th, for Articles for the Mints & Refiners' Department, has been attended to. The glass will be forwarded to you from Boston.

In consequence of a letter from Mr. Tyler, of the 14th inst., I have informed all the new applicants for places in your Mint that their services would not be wanted. But two of the old hands, Mr. Johnson & Mr. McNamee, had already left here, in the faith that they would be admitted to their old station. The former, I find, is not approved by Mr. Tyler. The latter is, I think, a man of excellent character, and he has had lately some useful experience at this Mint. It is for you to decide, under Mr. Tyler's advice, what course will be pursued, under the circumstances, with these hands. They dis-



timely understood that I disavowed all  
right to engage their services for good; and  
as to Johnson, I expressed to him my  
doubts whether he would be employed  
at all.

R.M.T.

D.

To/ }  
Gen. M. Kennedy, Esq.,  
Sup't Br. Mint,  
New Orleans. }



Mont. W. L.  
Nov. 20 1839.

Sir, I have the honor to send you herewith  
the bond and oath of office of Joseph M.  
Kennedy, as Superintendent of the Branch  
Office at New Orleans. They <sup>appear to me</sup> are satisfactory  
and in due form.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of  
a package, sent under your frank, con-  
taining a series of Brazilian Coins, which  
we suppose to be those forwarded by Mr.  
Holland.

R. M. P.

To  
Mr. Levi Woodbury  
Sec. of Treasury.



U. S. Branch Mint  
New Orleans, Nov 20. 1839

R. M. Patterson Esquire

Sir,

I rec<sup>d</sup>. at a late hour yesterday your letter of  
the 9<sup>th</sup> inst, accompanied by a communication touching  
the books and accounts of the Mint. That docu-  
ment is now in the hands of the Treasurer, and  
will, in a short time, be laid before the other  
Officers of the Institution. If any of the books  
required to be kept should be wanting in any  
of the Departments, you shall be immediately  
apprised thereof. In the mean time, I have the  
honor to inform you that no copy can be  
found, of your letter of instructions of the 25<sup>th</sup>  
May 1838.

Respectfully  
Your obed<sup>t</sup>. Servant.

J. M. Kennedy  
Sup<sup>t</sup>



U. S. Branch Mint

New Orleans, November 17<sup>th</sup> 1839

R. M. Patterson Esquire

Sir,

You will receive herewith the bond and oath of office of Mr. Tyler, which were handed to me yesterday.

Dr. Riddell has not yet returned. Should he not come in the next packet from Texas, which is looked for in the course of next week, it will be impossible to say when we can expect him. There is not even a certainty that he himself has any knowledge of his appointment, for he has not, I believe, been heard from since his departure by those friends who applied for it in his behalf.

The law regulates the mode of proceeding should a temporary absence of any of the principal officers of the Mint occur, but this case, I think, is unprovided for.



Under these circumstances, what are we to do?  
Would you be kind enough to let me hear from  
you on this subject.

Preferring my own residence, to that allotted to  
the Superintendent, I have given up the  
apartment in the Mint occupied by Mr. Bradford  
to Mr. Cammack who has asked my consent  
to certain improvements and alterations about  
the premises. There is no doubt that they  
would contribute materially to the comfort  
of himself and his family, but, the  
probable greatness of the expense to  
be incurred thereby, has induced me to  
refer him to you.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

J. McKim

Chpt.



For this amount I will thank you to send me duplicates  
Receipts.

Mint of the U. S.

November 14, 1859.

Dear Sir,

I have before me your letters of the  
28th ult. & 1st inst. - the latter having been received yesterday.  
I have to express my gratification at the explicit & business-like  
manner in which you have brought up the Accounts of the  
N. O. Branch Mint.

I learn them, from your Balance Sheet, that the late  
Treasurer is answerable for \$2100.54 in the Bullion Accounts,  
and that the Coinage of the Mint has been used to defray  
bills against the Mint, in Ordinary Account, to the amount  
of \$12,256.21. Is it ascertained that there are receipts  
& vouchers, in the latter Account, answering to that expenditure?

I need scarcely remark, for your own guidance, that  
the funds belonging to the Bullion Accounts should never be  
used to pay bills against the Mint. Your Superintendent can  
always keep you in Ordinary Funds by requisitions upon the  
Mint Appropriations, in moderate advances of expenses.

You ask whether we can spare any of <sup>the</sup> funds  
here, belonging to your Branch. You are aware that we have  
about \$2500. <sup>as you will probably want ac-  
cording to your plan, I think that \$1000  
of this, you may have a balance, at night,  
and other materials from this place, I think that \$1000  
for \$2000, or that amount can be sent by one more eligible  
to be retained. It accordingly I think you will find  
that it is better to have the money in your hands, than  
to have it in the hands of the (Cashier), and</sup>



As it regards the Certificate issued by the late Treasurer,  
to Mr. Tragos, for \$28.55 more than the proper value of  
his deposits, I trust the depositor will not hesitate to restore the  
matter to its true state, by taking out a correct Certificate. If  
not, the Mr. Tragos, being responsible to Government for the  
amount certified, will ~~have to~~ <sup>must</sup> hold Mr. Tragos accountable to  
himself for the difference. The Mint books should not exhibit  
balances due from depositors. - This affair shows the necessity  
of great care in calculations, & the issuing of papers; and the  
importance of having assiduous and competent clerks. At the  
same time, I ~~doubt~~ <sup>presume</sup> that an Act of Congress, in any material  
mistake, would relieve the Treasurer of the Mint from loss; <sup>but</sup>  
as yet, no precedent has occurred, in any of the Mints, to confirm  
such a presumption.

I have recently written fresh instructions to Mr.  
Kennedy, to which I beg leave to refer you, for important  
details in respect to your official duties.

Very respectfully  
your faithful Servant

A. C. Cammack Esq.  
Treas. U. S. M.



Branch Mint of the United States

New Orleans

Treasurer's Office Nov. 13. 1839.

Sir

I have to day received your letter of the 4th instant, with a statement of moneys received & paid out for expenses of this branch Mint incurred in Philadelphia. - An entire bill will be made to correspond. The accounts for contingent expenses for the 3rd quarter have been closed and forwarded to Washington some time ago. The payments you have made will have to come in the next quarter.

I notice what you have said about the light coin and also your wishes <sup>that</sup> the 3d sect. of the Mint Act, be followed. - This section had already had my attention.

By the mail of tomorrow morning I send to the Secretary of the Treasury, full accounts, made out from the time that this branch first went into operation, showing the general business that has been transacted since that time. I shall be glad to hear that they be found regular.

Dr Biddle has not arrived.

I am, very respectfully,

Yours faithfully &c

The Surplus Gold in Manuelli's account of \$46,000.00  
\$7,036 has been passed to Profit & Loss.

J. C. Cassin  
Treasurer



(Copy.)

The United States

To Horatio Davis,  
Notary Public - Dr.

1839, June }  
+ July }

To draft of the proceedings had before  
Thos. Slidell, Esq., Commissioner appointed  
on behalf of the United States, to investigate  
the conduct of the Officers of the  
U. S. Br. Mint at New Orleans,

Night sittings — \$ 500. —

To three copies of the same, one  
forwarded to SP. Patterson, Director  
of the United States Mint at Phil<sup>a</sup>,  
one furnished to Mr. Slidell, and one  
furnished to the parties to prepare their  
answers, and now recorded in my  
office, — \$ 250 each ————— 750. —

To per diems for attendance  
at the Mint on the 3<sup>d</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>,  
19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>d</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> of  
June, + 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>d</sup>, 3<sup>d</sup>, + 4<sup>th</sup> of July

18 days at \$ 10. — 180. —

\$ 14. 50. —

Received payment in full for the above  
(Signed) Horatio Davis,

New Orleans,  
Nov. 12. 1839.

/over/



"The said services were rendered at my request, by Horatio Davis Notary Public of New Orleans, who was employed by me to administer oaths to the witnesses, take down the testimony and prepare the copies thereof. With a view of not interrupting the business of the Mint, the sittings commenced at 4½ P.M., and usually continued till after midnight. I consider the bill a just and <sup>reasonable</sup> ~~proper~~ one, and accordingly approve the same.

U. S. Dist. Atty. Office,

New Orleans, Nov. 12. 1839.

(Signed) Thomas Midell,

U. S. Atty. for Dist. So."



Dec. 3, 1839. This Acct. was the day transmitted to Dept. of the U. S. Mint with copy of Secretary's letter rec'd yesterday.

New Orleans November 13<sup>th</sup> 1839

Dr. R. M. Patterson  
Director U. S. Mint  
Phil<sup>a</sup>

Sir,

I have the honor of enclosing  
a letter from Mr. Midell, Dist. Atty. of the U. S.  
together with duplicates of my account,  
received, for services rendered at the  
investigation instituted into the conduct  
of the officers of the Branch Mint at  
this place. As it has been some time  
since the proceedings have been closed  
I would request the favor of your at-  
tention to my claims.

I will feel grateful for an early  
acknowledgment of the receipt of my  
letter.

I am, Sir, with Great Respect

Your most ob<sup>l</sup>g<sup>d</sup>

Horatio Davis



Branch Mint of the United States,  
New Orleans

Treasurer's Office November 12<sup>th</sup> 1839

Dear Sir

I yesterday applied to Mr Kennedy for authority, to incur the expense necessary to render habitable the house in the Mint intended for myself & family. Mr Kennedy does not appear willing that we should go to any expenses, without first consulting with you, and it is at his suggestion that I now apply to you, and enclosed you have his letter to me on the subject.

I will here remark that this part of the building was not intended for a dwelling, it is very inconvenient and not well finished, several of the rooms, one of them the best in the house, are without fire places, the rooms are 32 feet long, two windows in one end, in the other, one small door with wooded shutters, which when closed (which must be constantly, as the gallery is common to the Mint) darkens the rooms and makes them very unpleasant. Sash doors may be placed inside of the frame, without interfering with the other doors. The walls have flues, and a fire place can be easily attached. The wood work has not been painted since the building was finished, and is much in want of paint. I assure you Sir, that these things are necessary, and the expense will be moderate, I think about \$800. The petitions are wanted to make rooms for



my servants, who are all very decent white women. The  
servants rooms used by Mr. Bradford, are little wooden  
divisions in the Garret, without windows, where they could  
sleep only on the floor, only Negroes could occupy such a  
place, and I do not think it safe to leave lights where  
there is so much wood work.

Mr. Tyler incurs no other expense than papering  
the Room.

I am very respectfully

Yours most truly

W. C. Gammon

Treasurer

We are all very much in want of Stables, which have been  
entirely omitted in the building.

To J. R. M. Patterson

Director U. S. Mint

Philadelphia



R. M. Tatham Esq.

Branta W. I. Mint

Phila

Sir:

In the investigation which I was instructed  
by you to make into the affairs of the U. S.  
Bk. Mint at New Orleans, I found it necessary  
to employ the services of a Notary Public  
to administer oaths to the witnesses, take down  
the testimony, & prepare the copies thereof.  
I obtained the attendance of Horatio Davis Esq  
W. P. accordingly, who acted with great atten-  
-tion & fidelity - I have requested him to make  
out his account & transmit the same to you  
for approval. I believe that they have the right  
that you will take such measures as may







Branch Mint of the U. S.  
New Orleans, Nov 11. 1839

H. C. Cammack Esquire,

Dear Sir,

I have just recd. your note, in which you request  
the following work to be put upon the rooms you  
are about to occupy in the Mint

" apartments to be painted and white washed,  
glass doors to the opening on the South side,  
One additional fire place, and  
partitions in two of the larger rooms.

The magnitude alone, of the expense attending  
the execution of this work, compels me to refer you  
to the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia  
for his consent - To him, you are at liberty to  
state, at the same time, that I acknowledge  
the reasonableness of the request, and freely  
confess, that in my opinion, these alterations  
and improvements will be necessary to the  
comfort of yourself and family -

I am very sincerely

Y<sup>r</sup> friend

J. McKim

Sup<sup>t</sup>







# 1. Books of Entry. -

## 1. Treasurer's Office.

- A. Gold Weighing-book, for deposits.
- B. Silver do. do.
- C. D. Day-Book and Leger - subsidiary & informal books, in which the weighing-clerk keeps <sup>daily</sup> account, by single entry, of all his receipts & deliveries, by weight only.
- E. Weighing-book, for Gold & silver ingots & clippings.
- F. ~~Gold~~ Register of Gold Deposites.
- G. H. Do. of Silver do.
- H. I. Bullion Journal. } Kept by double entry; and giving
- I. Bullion Leger. } weight and value.
- K. Memorandum-Book, of assay-coins, & slips <sup>sent to this Mint,</sup> and of funds <sup>sent to my care,</sup> to pay bills on Ordinary Account; & of ~~receipts~~ <sup>returns & receipts</sup> from hence; being simply a subsidiary Account between your Treasurer & myself, of which no return is made to the Department.
- L. M. Book of Appropriations - exhibiting the sums appropriated by the Govt. for the support of the Br. Mint, under the several heads; & the amounts <sup>rec'd therefrom</sup> ~~drawn therefrom~~ from time to time.
- N. Bill-book, - in which all bills on Ordinary Acc<sup>t</sup> are copied.
- O. P. ~~Book~~ A Register of or List of Warrants issued <sup>by you</sup> ~~by you~~ on Ordinary Account.
- Q. R. Journal of Ordinary Accounts. } Kept by double entry.
- S. T. Leger of ~~Ordinary~~ do. - }

## 2. Assayer's Office.

- A. Book of Calculations, of the Standard Weight and Value of Deposites.
- B. Assayer's Register of Gold & Silver Deposites.
- C. Register of the Assay of Gold & Silver Ingots.

## 3. Melters & Refiners Office.

- A. Book of Gold Melts; calculations of pots, &c.
- B. Do. of Silver do.
- C. Weighing-Book of Gold & Silver ingots.
- D. Day-Book, of bullion transactions with the Treasurer; the <sup>amount of Gold & Silver kept separate</sup>

2  
from the basis of the Supdt's Warrant in their case.  
These are then closed monthly, & being adjusted by similar entries of the Treasurer.



I. Leger, exhibiting his account by <sup>the</sup> Monthly Warrants; -  
from this Book, his Quarterly Abstract is taken.

4. Coiner's Office.

A. Weighing- Book of Gold and Silver Ingots & clippings,  
and Entries of Coins delivered.

B. ~~to~~ Day-Book, in which the several deliveries of ingots  
& clippings are summed up into monthly aggregates, on  
which, the ~~Superintendent's~~ Warrants when adjusted by like  
accounts of the Treasurer, form the basis of the Super-  
intendent's Warrants in those cases.

The Coins are exhibited in Coinage Warrants, issued  
monthly or otherwise, as the deliveries may require. - The  
Corresponding Entries of the Treasurer & Coiner, form the basis for  
such Warrants.

II. Printed Blank Forms, bound and unbound.

1. Superintendent's Office.

A. Warrants, for the payment of Gold Deposits.

B. Do. for do. Silver do.

C. Do. for the delivery of Gold or Silver de-  
posits, in monthly aggregates,  
~~by the Treasurer, to the Melt & Refiner.~~

D. Do. for the delivery of Gold or Silver bullion, in  
clippings, ~~by the Treasurer, to the Melt & Refiner.~~  
ingots, by the ~~Melt & Refiner~~ to the ~~Treasurer~~.

E. Do. for the delivery of Gold & Silver bullion, in  
ingots, ~~monthly~~ by the M & R to the Treasurer.

F. Do. for the delivery of Gold or Silver bullion, in  
ingots, by the Treasurer, to the Coiner.

G. Do. for the delivery of Gold or Silver bullion, in  
clippings, by the Coiner, to the Treasurer. -

H. Do. for the delivery of Gold or Silver Coins,  
by the ~~Coiner~~ to the Treasurer.

I. Do. for the allowance of Wastage of Gold or Silver,  
to the Melt & Refiner.

K. Do. for the same allowance, to the Coiner.

These Warrants are bound in book form, with margins,  
& are cut out as they are wanted.



- I. Do. to the Treasurer, authorizing him to draw from the Contingent Fund, to balance the account of Profit & Loss, in Bullion.
  - M. Do. for the payment of bills, on Ordinary Account.
2. Treasurer's Office.

see page 3.

- A. Certificates, of Gold Deposits.
- B. Do. of Silver do.

} Bound.

- C. Receipts for Gold Bullion, before Assay.
- D. Do. for Silver do. do.
- E. Assayer's Reports <sup>of Gold</sup> which are ~~presented~~ sent to the Assayer by the Treasurer, with the name, of date depositor, number, gross weight, and date; & are received back with the Assayer's Certificate of fineness, ~~and~~ <sup>his</sup> calculation (in pencil) of the standard weight & value, & his directions for making deductions: all which calculations are scribbled & inked in the Treasurer's Office.

} Not Bound.

- F. Like reports, of Silver.
  - G. H. Memorandums, or specifications of gold and silver deposits, given to the depositor at the time of paying him, or of delivering him a Certificate.
- These are of various sizes, to suit deposits of one or more parcels.

3. Assayer's Office.

- A. Report on the fineness of Gold Ingots.
- B. Do. do. Silver do.

} Not Bound.



Forms for  
III. Quarterly Abstracts, or Returns, to the Treasury Department.

1. Treasurer's Office.

- A. Account of Gold Bullion.
- B. Silver Bullion.
- C. Gold Coinage.
- D. Silver Coinage.
- E. Meltin & Refiner's Account of Gold, in acc<sup>t</sup> with the Treasurer.
- F. Do. Account of Silver, do. do.
- G. Coiner's Account of Gold, do. do.
- H. Do. do. of Silver, do. do.
- I. Profit & Loss.
- K. Branch Mint at New Orleans. (Balance Sheet.)
- L. Account of the Deposits of the Treas<sup>r</sup> of the U. S.
- L. M. Salaries of Officers & Clerks.
- M. N. Incidental & Contingent Expenses.
- N. O. Wages of Laborers.
- P. The United States. (Account Current for Ordinary Expenses.)

2. Meltin & Refiner's Office.

- A. Treasurer's Account of Gold, in acc<sup>t</sup> with Meltin & Refin.
- B. Do. do. of Silver, do.

3. Coiner's Office.

- A. Treasurer's Account of Gold, in acc<sup>t</sup> with Coiner.
- B. Do. do. of Silver do.

All the foregoing books and papers are indispensable to the right order of Mint Accounting in the Mint; & should any of them be wanting, or should any further information in regard to them be desired, you will have the goodness to inform me of the same, & let me hear from you, on the subject.



6

I proceed now to inform you, that the Returns of the  
N.C.  
Branch Mint to the Treasury Department, were recently examined  
at Washington  
by two Clerks of the Mint, who were sent to Washington. Besides  
the information received through them, I have had additional means  
means of judging as to the condition of the Accounts, by the notes  
and papers report of the Commissioner, Mr. Stidell, and the ac-  
companying testimony and documents.

From all these sources, I find that the greatest confusion  
& irregularity has prevailed; first, in keeping the accounts, and <sup>then</sup> ~~next~~  
(~~by~~ <sup>the</sup> consequence) in rendering the Returns of them. <sup>Among</sup> The Abstracts sent  
to Washington, embrace some new some are new & informal documents.  
The papers sent to Washington, include some Abstracts for which no  
form ~~or~~ or direction had been given, & of course, contrary to order;  
while others, as important as any, were not sent at all.  
The settlements were not made quarterly, nor, in one case, did they  
terminate with a regular quarter; as for instance, the settlement of  
January 31<sup>st</sup> 1839.

I had thought of entering into some particulars of the  
irregularities noted by our clerks; but it now appears to me, that  
the books will have to be brought up, and the returns rendered, as  
it were, <sup>from the beginning</sup> ~~at the beginning~~; that is, if it be practicable to do so. It is  
<sup>especially</sup> necessary, at all events, that great pains should be taken  
to ascertain <sup>exactly</sup> the ~~exact~~ <sup>exact</sup> present accountability of the late officers  
of the Mint. To this end, the accounts of those officers, ~~should~~  
from the commencement of their operations until the period of their  
duties, should be satisfactorily & formally stated, & <sup>so</sup> reported to  
the First Auditor at Washington. — Let me here give you a copy  
of <sup>a note of</sup> the report of the Accounting Clerk in that office; ~~to its Chief~~  
by which you will learn the state of the Bullion Accounts.



7  
"The Treasurer of the Branch Mint at New Orleans  
has rendered a general abstract of Gold & Silver  
Bullion deposited for coinage from 1<sup>st</sup> April 1838 to  
30 June 1839. amounting to \$ 348,408.99. but does  
not show that any part was coined, as he has rendered  
no abstract of coinage, nor does he give the amount  
deposited for coinage in ounces & decimals - he has  
rendered separate abstracts of Gold & Silver Bullion  
deposited for coinage for a part of the above period,  
Gold Bullion from 31<sup>st</sup> March 1838 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 1839.  
in ounces & decimals 2013.094 but not extended in  
dollars & cents - Silver Bullion from commencement  
of the operations of the Branch Mint up to 31<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>  
1839. 204,525. <sup>oz</sup>83 <sup>dec</sup> not extended in Dollars & cents.

He should render abstracts of Gold & Silver  
Bullion deposited from commencement of the  
operations of the Branch Mint. in ounces & decimals  
& extended in dollars & cents -

Abstracts of Gold & Silver coinage from  
commencement of the operations of the Branch Mint  
showing the amount and denomination of coins  
made, received from the Chief Coiner & paid for  
deposits -

The Chief Coiner & Melter & Refiner's accounts  
with the Treasurer of the Branch Mint. showing  
the amount of Gold & Silver Bullion received  
from him and coins made and paid him and the  
balance remaining in their hands of the Chief  
Coiner & Melter & Refiner -

As the accounts are now stated they  
cannot be settled at the Treasury - they should



shew the amount of Bullion received for coinage, the amount coined and paid for deposits & the balance remaining on hand."

In addition to the above, I would suggest that <sup>if possible,</sup> the <sup>should</sup> accounts be closed to the end of the third quarter of the present year; & the wastage settled <sup>to that date</sup>; that is, that the 30<sup>th</sup> September be a ~~date~~ <sup>point</sup> of dividing date between the old and new ~~regiment~~ <sup>period</sup> ~~for as that~~

In addition to the above, let me ask your attention to the law, & the instructions based thereon, relative to the settlement of the wastage of the late M & R, and Coiner. This wastage will be carried to the debit of Profit & Loss; & as it will doubtless exceed the credits of that account, the balance is to be supplied from the Contingent Fund, by a charge upon Incidental Expenses (and a corresponding credit to the Treasurer of the Br. Mint) for the amount needed, in the Ordinary Books; while, in the Bullion Books, Gold <sup>& Silver</sup> Coinage will be charged separately, and Profit & Loss credited, to the same amount.

I have only to add at present, that the surplus of gold, which Mr. Maxwell reported to be in his vault, amounting to  $33\frac{415}{1000}$  ozs. standard, is to be delivered to the Treasurer, who will charge himself (as Gold Bullion) therewith; <sup>and</sup> will credit Profit & Loss. It has also been determined to my satisfaction, that ~~Mr. Postall is liable to Messrs. Lazard & Co.~~ Mr. Maxwell, in the settlement of July, 1858, returned to Mr. Postall the item of  $8\frac{698}{1000}$  ozs. standard gold, as so much more ascertained to be in the silver deposits of Messrs. Lazard & Co. than was at first reported. This amount has been ~~settled~~ <sup>not even certified</sup>, to the depositor. Mr. Postall is therefore <sup>(which, in its turn, is liable to Messrs. Lazard & Co.)</sup> liable directly to Government, for that much more than appears in his accounts. This matter has been thoroughly investigated here, & the above is my deliberate judgment upon it.



Mint of the U. S.

April 2, 1840.

Sir,

I send you herewith Bills of Lading for 25 casks more of Acid shipped on the 27th ult., and for one hhd. of Black Lead pots, shipped on the 30th ult. These pots are No. 60, and larger ones will be sent as soon as they can be procured. Black Lead pot-cores have been ordered from the Manufacturers, and will be shipped to you from Boston as soon as they can be made.

Please to inform me if Lead pots No. 120 could be used in your furnaces: these can be obtained here at once, while <sup>those of</sup> No. 80 must be imported, and with a delay of at least 6 months.

R. M. S.

W

To/

For M. Kennedy, Esq. }  
Superintendent }  
New Orleans. }



U. S. Branch Mint  
New Orleans, April 1. 1840

Sir,

Enclosed you have our Statement for March,  
showing a coining larger than that of any  
other month, since this Mint went into op-  
eration.

I have just recd. thro' the Secretary of the  
Treasury three boxes of die, of which for the  
mail is now about closing / I will give  
you the denominations in my next.

Very respectfully,

Your Servt. G. M. G. M.

R. M. Patterson Esq.  
Director of the Mint of  
the U. S. Phila.

J. McKim  
Supt.

Our aids have not yet arrived.







1840	By Amount brought forward			146,652.68
March 31	"	Cassius M. Davis	1 Silver deposit do. then	95.39
"	"	Adolph Marshall	1 do do	958.75
"	"	Nicholas Lewis	1 do do	960.44
"	"	A. Rousseau	1 do do	98.36
"	"	Wm. M. Pucin	1 do do	118.15
"	"	W. C. Kennedy	1 do do	119.97
"	"	A. Maynard	1 gold do	116.52
"	"	Louis Glendon	1 Silver do	250.33
"	"	J. Lamps	2 do do	1808.84
"	"	Mariano Garcia	1 do do	98.02
"	"	Chas. A. King	2 do do	585.61
"	"	V. Pinard	1 do do	100.49
"	"	A. D. Chapman	1 do do	1,267.85
"	"	Citizens' Bk. of Lou.	3 do do	16,521.41
"	"	Bank of Louisiana	1 do do	20,116.57
				189,865.58

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans,  
Treasurer's Office, March 31st 1840.

A. C. Cammack  
Treas.



*D* Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans

*Cr*

1840		Dollars	cts
March 31	To Carver his account of Gold, for 57,330.99 Standard Gold, to be accounted for by him	1566	60
"	" Carver his account of Silver, for 14,315.55 of Standard Silver, to be accounted for by him	13167	14
"	" Muller & Refiner his acc. of Gold, for 2965.092 of Stand. Gold, to be accounted for by him	55164	57
"	" Muller & Refiner his acc. of Silver, for 74,914.60 of Stand. Silver, to be accounted for by him	87173	34
"	" Sold Coinage, for balance of this account	16354	16
"	" Silver Coinage, for do do	14597	67
"	" Edm. Threlkell, for do do	2342	16
Carried Forward		189865	58

1840		Dollars	cts
March 31	By Sold Bullion purchased for Coinage, for 2,820 of Stand. Gold, due the Treasurer	52	61
"	" Silver Bullion purchased for Coinage, for 40.84 g. Stand. Silver due the Treasurer	48	79
"	" United States Deposit Account, for balance of this account	122450	00
"	" Profit & Loss, for balance of this account	3820	63
"	" Treasurer of the U. States, (Special deposits) for balance of this account	1700	00
"	" M. de Sigaudi & Co, for 1 gold deposit due them	161	32
"	" J. W. Sachar & Co, 1 Silver do	16287	47
"	" A. D. Croftman, 1 gold do	56	83
"	" J. H. Martin & Co, 1 Silver do	105	41
"	" Office Citizens' Bank, 1 do do	200	75
"	" D. Conland, 3 do do	297	85
"	" E. Cassard, 1 do do	100	72
"	" L. Manhart & Co, 2 do do	250	04
"	" B. Ogden, 1 do do	100	20
"	" Samuel Vansing, 1 do do	94	06
"	" C. Clapier, 1 do do	95	68
"	" A. Lacroix, 1 do do	227	74
"	" Nathaniel Wood & Co, 1 do do	550	47
"	" C. Allaire, 1 do do	100	55
"	" C. George, 1 do do	101	93
"	" J. Norton, 1 do do	99	13
Carried Forward		146652	68



1840

1840 To Amount brought forward

189.56558

189.86558



Mint of the United States,  
April 1, 1840.

Sir,

I send you herewith a statement of  
my account of <sup>money received</sup> receipts & expended on behalf of  
your Mint, during the Quarter just closed, together with  
the necessary vouchers. A balance remains in my  
hands, to your credit, of \$616.53.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson.

Director.

To/

H. C. Carraway, Esq.,  
Treasury of the Mint,  
New Orleans. }



The following are the Expenditures by E. Forstall charged under the head of the appropriation "for furnishing establishment inclusive of all apparatus, tools and fixtures not included in contracts," viz.

Bills of sundry persons from Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> 1838, for furniture, Masons work, Carpenters —  
Work &c. 2,942. 70.

From April 4<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> 1838 for Maps,

Iron, furniture, mason's work, digging &

Wells for cisterns, Lumber &c. amounting to 5,769. 82.

\* in which included an item of \$40. for a bust of E. Livingston, which should have been disallowed, when the account was adjusted

Am<sup>t</sup> paid M<sup>r</sup> Baker for Bookcase

Tables &c. under S<sup>d</sup> Approp<sup>n</sup> 258. 00.  
8,970. 52.

The following are charged under head of building & Machinery

Account of Hain & Strong from 26 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1837 to 24<sup>th</sup> Feby 1838 for Mantles, grates, shelves, hearths &c. 859. 50.

Bills of sundry persons from 28<sup>th</sup> May to 11<sup>th</sup> June 1838 for mantle pieces, grates, railing &c. 3,859. 25.

Bills of sundry persons for building out houses &c. from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1838. 11,749. 46.

16,468. 21.

From 1<sup>st</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1838. for

painting



Painting & glazing, Iron railing, building out houses &c. 18,079. 73.

From 1. Jan'y to 31. March 1839 for labor, bricks, mantles, castings, grates, fixings &c. 9,977. 56.

From 1. April to 30. June 1839, for plastering, making gutters, repairing out-houses, fixing doors, cupboards, closets &c. 1539. 75.  
46,065. 25.

Amount expended and charged under head of Building & Machinery by St. Cammack, viz.

Bills of sundry persons for Carpenters work, hanging bells, paper hanging, lumber, bricks, painting, repairs &c. during 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 1839. 1913. 94.

1<sup>st</sup> quarter 1840 for Carpenters work  
Mantle piece, Mason's work, repairs &c. 980. 12.  
2894. 06.  
48,959. 31.

Among those Expenditures charged as incidental & contingent are items for furniture, Carpenters work, finishing out houses, painting, repairs, &c.



MARCH 31 1840

Statement of the amount of money drawn out under the appropriations, of 3. March 1835 & 3. March 1837 for the establishment of a Branch Mint at New Orleans showing by whom received and the amount expended:

Amount recd. by Martin Gordon, senr. Commissioner appointed to have the General Superintendence of the work connected with the erection of completing of the Building, viz:

Warrant N <sup>o</sup> 876 dated May 25. 1835.	\$ 1000. 00
" — 1849 " Oct <sup>r</sup> 7 "	71,000. 00.
" — 4382 " Dec <sup>r</sup> 27. 1836.	71,000. 00.
" — 5691. " June 29. 1837.	40,000. 00.
	<u>183,000. 00.</u>

His expenditures including his salary & Commissions up to the time of the rendition of his last account, after deducting \$9- for postage which was suspended for want of Voucher amounted to

186,275. 13.

leaving this balance due Commissioner

3,275. 13.

which was closed by warrant in his favor N<sup>o</sup> 4272 dated May 5. 1840.

The amount of the appropriations for said Branch

Per act of 3. March 1835 was 200,000. 00.

Per act of 3. March 1837 " 96,500. 00.

296,500. 00.

The Am<sup>t</sup> of Mr. Gordon's Expenditures allowed

186,275. 13.

Bal<sup>y</sup> so far as Mr. Gordon is concerned 110,224. 87.

Amount received by Dr. R. M. Patterson, who was entrusted to procure the



Bal. bro't forward

110,224. 87.

machinery & apparatus, viz

Warrant N<sup>o</sup> 1437 dated Aug. 17. 1835. \$8,000.

" " 2459. " Jan'y 30. 1836. 8,000.

" " 3771. " Sept. 8. " 10,000.

" " 4813. " Feby 28. 1837. 13,000.

" " 6060. " July 25. " 7,500.

" " 7711. " Feby 26. 1838. 710. 47. 210. 00.

which I suppose was all expended, for it appears that Dr. Patterson drew monies out under several other heads of app<sup>ro</sup> which together with the above amounted to the sum of \$68,811. 22, and when his account was rendered, there appeared to be a balance remaining in his hands of only \$853. 01.

Bal. after deducting Expenditures by Gordon and Patterson.

\$63,014. 87.

But it appears that Mr. Forstall & Mr. Cammack were permitted to draw out money under the aforesaid appropriations Mr. Forstall to the amount of the following, viz.

Warrant N<sup>o</sup> 8621. dated May 23 1838. \$10,000.

" " 9118. " July 9. " 10,000.

" " 9447. " Aug. 25. " 10,000.

" " 10,150. " Nov. 17. " 10,000.

" " 2. " Jan'y 2. 1839. 5,000.

" " 1500. " June 5. " 5,000.

\$50,000. "

The Am<sup>t</sup> expended by him was 46,065. 25.

Leaving a Bal. over his Expenditures of \$3,954. 75.

which



which I supposed was delivered over to  
Mr. Cammack, when he superseded  
Mr. Forstall.

Mr. Cammack rec. Warrants on said  
appropriation to the amount of the fol-  
lowing, viz

Warrant N<sup>o</sup> 3139 dated Nov. 19. 1839 \$ 3,500.

" " 3999. " March 17. 1840. 1,000.  
\$4,500.

The amount expended by him to

31. March 1840. was 2,894. 06.  
\$1,605. 94.

To which add the sum supposed  
to have been delivered to him by  
Forstall. 3,934. 75.

Bal. remaining in hands of Cam-  
mack 31. March 1840. } \$5,540. 69.

Amount of the appropriations . . . \$296,500. 00.

From which deduct whole amt

drawn out by Warrants, viz.

By Gordon . . . \$186,275. 13.

By Patterson . . . 47,210. 00.

" Forstall . . . 50,000. 00.

" Cammack . . . 4,500. 00. 237,985. 13.

Balance in Treasury . . . \$ 8,514. 87.



Treasurer's Office U.S. Mint  
New Orleans 30 March 40  
Dr R. M. Patterson  
Director  
Philadelphia

Sir

I received in due time your  
returned letter of 22nd February, and I have  
entered to the debit of your account \$6.10 as  
advised by you.

I have also entered to your credit \$25.00  
amount of two drafts drawn by Mr Bradford  
on you, in August of last year, and have  
debited Mr Horstall, late Treasurer of this Mint,  
with the sum. I had no doubt of the propriety  
of charging this amount to my predecessor, but  
I considered it necessary for me to have the  
order of yourself or Mr Kennedy to do so, in order  
to place the sum fairly at issue between  
Mr Horstall and the Government without  
responsibility on my part. Mr Kennedy has  
given me his written instructions.

Mr Kennedy wrote to you some time ago  
that there had been some enquiry at Washington  
about the residence at the Mint. I have received  
a letter from Mr Nicholas, our Senator, and I  
am pleased to learn that every thing has been  
explained satisfactorily, which is gratifying.

Our Mint is in full operation and  
the Coinage of this month will be the largest  
ever



ever made here. Tomorrow evening the statement  
for the month will be made out and handed to  
Mr Kennedy, who will forward it to you.

All of our gold certificates are paid, and  
we have at 22,500 \$ in gold coins on hand.

The silver certificates are all paid up to the  
13th of last month, in which a large deposit  
was made by one of our banks, with this exceptn,  
and at \$1000 in small deposits, we have  
paid all the depositors up to the 17th instant.

The deposit made subsequent to the 13th <sup>and many</sup> have been  
paid by Consent of the Bank, who does not want  
the money until it is perfectly agreeable for  
us to pay. and by doing this we have accommo-  
dated a great number of small depositors.

I am glad to find by a recent letter to Mr  
Kennedy that we will have a new set of weights.

The weights of the Treasurer of the mint, I think,  
never remain always in his custody, and kept  
as standard to regulate the other weights in the  
other departments. And but one set of weights,  
used by any and every body, carried from  
office to office, and no means of adjusting them  
they may get wrong and remain so and  
I can never know it.

I hope when the new weights come  
that I may be allowed to take them in my  
possession to keep them for my own use only.

I am with great respect,

Yours faithfully & sincerely

A. C. Hammond

Treasurer



V. S. Branch Mount  
New Orleans March 26. 1840

Sir,

I have the honor of enclosing herewith,  
Statements of our operations for the months  
of January and February, made out  
according to the form prescribed by your  
letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> inst, and will transmit  
that of the present month, as soon  
after its close as possible -

Very resp<sup>t</sup>

J. C. Caldwell

Superintendent

R. M. Patterson Esq -

Director of the Mint of the U. S.  
Phil<sup>a</sup>



Statement of the Deposits and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the Month of  
January 1845.

Treasurer's Office  
20 March 1840

Stebannær

*Measure*



*Statement of the Deposits and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of February 1840.*

Deposites								Coinage									
Kind of Deposits	Gross Weight after melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions		Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value		
	Ounces	Decs	Ounces	Decs	Dollars	Cts	Dollars	Cts	Dollars	Cts			Dollars	Cts	Dollars	Cts	
Gold.											Sold.						
U.S. Bullion. Say	11	43	7	12	132	31	132	31			Half Eagles. Say	3000	15,000	00			
Foreign Bullion .	41	73	22	38	426	00	426	00									
Foreign Coins .	170	04	171	90	3198	23	3198	23									
									3,756	54							15,000 00
Silver.											Silver.						
Foreign Bullion say	3040	40	3222	29	3749	55	3741	35			Half Dollars. Say	72,000	36,000	00			
Foreign Coins .	29633	15	29053	94	32308	01	33735	65			Half Dimes .	66,000	3,300	00			
									37,557	56							39,300 00
Total Deposited								41,314	10	Total Coinage				54,300 00			
Treasurer's Office																	

Treasurer's Office

March 25 1840

*H. C. Gammon*

*Treasurer*



Amount of Coinage      Mint of the United States,  
March 24, 1860.

Sir,

By a letter received from the Secretary of the Treasury, I am sorry to learn that attempts have been made, I presume indirectly, to convey to his mind impressions unfavorable to the official character of Mr. Tyler. Under such circumstances it becomes my duty to apply to you for information, and for your frank opinion.

I will ask you, then, whether you have or have not found Mr. Tyler attentive to his business at the Mint: whether he has shown a proper anxiety to get forward with his work, and whether he has succeeded in doing so, to your satisfaction. I wish you particularly to state whether ingots have been allowed to accumulate unreasonably in his hands, or in the hands of the Treasurer: whether, from time to time, he has ~~for~~ coined all the ingots prepared for him; in a word, whether the Coiner has been able to keep pace with the Melters. Has it ever happened that the coining has been stopped for want of ingots?

If the coinage is much behind the supply of ingots, how far is this to be ascribed to the demand for half-dimes? If this demand stands in the way of your hanging off depositors, can it



not be retitled or at least reduced to a reasonable extent? I am told that half-dimes are asked of you because they can be passed at 25 per cent. above their legitimate value, in New Orleans. On the supposition, then, that this Coinage tends to keep the Mint behind-hand & in debt, might it not be right to inquire whether such a result should be submitted to, for the encouragement of what is at least a paltry traffic, if not an absolute fraud?

If you think that the intimations against Mr. Tyler are unfounded, I would suggest to you the propriety of considering the subject of this communication confidential, - as, otherwise, you must expect to see suspicions and ill-blood excited among your officers, and the deplorable scenes revived which but a few months ago had nearly destroyed your institution. I most earnestly hope that the spirit of intrigue is not again busy among you. One more investigation like the last, and your institution will have reached its end.

(Signed) Dr. M. Patterson  
Director.

To/  
Dr. M. Kennedy, Esq., }  
Supr. of the Mint,  
New Orleans.



Mint M.S.

March 21/40.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst. on the subject of the operations in the New Orleans Branch mint, and particularly respecting the qualifications of the Coiners. My last letter from this office is of the 3d inst. In it he makes the following remarks:

Our Mint is going on more prosperously than at any previous time. I am happy to state that I have been enabled to coin all the bullion [meaning ingots of copper] I could get, and at the same time to turn my attention to the repairs of the machinery &c. I have but one trouble, which is on account of the dies, as I could not use any you sent us except the half-dollars and half-dimes, - the quarter-dollar press not being completed, and the dimes not wanted. I have however coined a few half-cents in the dime-press. [The quarter-dollar press <sup>being</sup> the proper one for these coins.] With the half-dollar dies I have coined about 90,000 pieces, and have but one pair more which I fear will not stand to coin as many more. With the half-dimes, I have coined about 100,000 pieces, but on account



of one of the tail dies being cracked in hardening, I expect soon to go ashore on that task. The fault is not alone in the hardening, for I have been working bad silver, and, besides, my annealer is inexperienced. Other circumstances, such as too much or too little mil-ling, have tended to wear out the dies, — all of which difficulties require patience with skil-ful practice to overcome: &c."

Mr. Tyler has details some of the difficul-ties to which his operations are exposed, and for which the ignorant or the ill-disposed will not make allowance, and yet he says that he has been enabled to coin all the ingots he could get. "It is true that the New Orleans Mint has done but little this year, yet you will see, from the report which I send you by the present mail, that the coinage has been almost double of the deposits in the January & February."

My opinion <sup>then</sup> is, that if there has not yet been time to <sup>establish</sup> an absolutely favora-ble judgment as to Mr. Tyler's qualifications, there certainly I cannot yet see any thing in his course that should lead to a ~~any~~ <sup>any</sup> conclusion.

~~I had~~ <sup>had</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~made~~ <sup>made</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~me~~ <sup>me</sup> ~~yesterday~~ <sup>yesterday</sup>, ~~by~~ <sup>by</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~gentleman~~ <sup>gentleman</sup> ~~who~~ <sup>who</sup> ~~has~~ <sup>has</sup> ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> ~~late~~ <sup>late</sup> ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup>

New Orleans Mint, and I was distressed to hear from him that symptoms of personal hostility were again making their appearance among the officers, or, at least, between two of them, (Dr. Hest and Mr. Tyler. Dr. Hest is the only remaining officer of the old set, and he was always reported to me, by our party, as the instigator of the dissensions which destroyed the character & efficiency of the Mint in its early days. I was warned of the danger of recommending that he should be retained. Yet I did so, because he is a man of abili-ty in his department, and because I hoped, that if he was really disposed to mischief-making and the indulgence of personal animi-ties, the lesson

I sincerely hope that your letter does not indicate the existence, on the part of any officer of the New Orleans Mint, of the disposition to de-nounce and injure other officers, which had so baneful an influence in the former corps. Al-most the same accusations now hinted at a-gainst Mr. Philip Tyler were made against his brother, and yet his official character was fully sustained by Mr. Midell, upon the evidence pre-sented to him in the investigation.

I will write to Mr. Kennedy and make inquiry as to his impressions with



regard to Mr. Tyler's discharge of his func-  
tions. Happily Mr. Kennedy had not  
had in connection with the old friends.

R. M. P.  
(D. M.)

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treas. U. S.

(D. M.) Sec. of Treas. U. S.  
March 21, 1840.



Mint of the United States,  
March 21. 1840.

Sir,

I send you herewith bills of lading for  
articles shipped on the 14th & 20th inst., for  
the use of your Mint. You will notice that  
there was some dispute ~~respecting~~ <sup>as to</sup> the number of  
casks of acid shipped: please inform <sup>me</sup> how many  
you ~~are~~ come to hand. A further supply will be  
sent soon.

The balance is for the use of your Coiners  
~~in the subject~~ The weights accompanying have  
all been adjusted here.

Very respectfully,

Wm. M. P., Director  
per Geo. T. Dunning,  
Director's Clerk.

(To)  
Mr. W. Kennedy, Secy.  
Sub Treasr Mint,  
New Orleans. }



Treasury Department  
March 21. 1834.

Sir,

The third box of dies for the Branch  
Mint at New Orleans was received this morning and  
has been forwarded.

Very Resp<sup>ly</sup>.

Sam<sup>l</sup> Randall  
Sec. of the Treasury

G. R. W. Patterson  
Director of the Mint  
Philad<sup>a</sup>



Mint M.S.  
March 21 / 40.

Sir,  
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup>, on the subject of the dies for the New Orleans Mint. I take the liberty to state that there are not the first dies for 1840 now sent to that Mint early in January, and indeed that in that month, and that it has been a custom, from the origin of the Mint, to use the dies of the preceding year, until the new ones are prepared. There is, however, no difficulty in keeping sending on the supply in time to prevent this necessity, and I will have it attended to in future.

R. M. P.

D. M.

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.



Treasury Department  
March 20. 1820.

Sir,

The box of dies referred to in yours  
of the 18<sup>th</sup> has been received and forwarded to the  
Mint at New Orleans.

I transmit by this  
mail to you also a Letter from the Ad. Comptroller  
at Hope Chapel and the coins therein referred to.

Very Respectfully

Sam<sup>l</sup> Woodbury  
Sec. of the Treasury

G. R. M. Patterson  
Philad<sup>a</sup>



Treasury Department  
March 18. 1840.

Sir

I duly received your communication of the 21<sup>st</sup> ult. in relation to the alleged deficiency in the coinage at the Branch Mint at N. Orleans and hope that your expectations as to the future success of that establishment may not be disappointed.

Permit me to ask, however, whether sufficient time has elapsed to enable you to judge of the qualifications and general fitness of the Coiner of that branch for the situation he holds? If not, I will thank you to institute such enquiries as you may deem proper and necessary to enable you to form an opinion on that point and to report the result to the Department.

*Is he active & energetic?*

Very Respectfully  
Yours A. A. S.

Geo. W. W. W.  
Sec. of the Treasury

D. W. M. Patterson  
Director of the Mint  
Philad<sup>a</sup>.



Mint N. O.

March 18. 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending <sup>to you by</sup> the present mail, a second box of dies directed on the inner envelope to the Supt. of the N. O. Mint, to be forwarded, as heretofore, under your frank. A third box will be sent by to morrow's mail.

J. V. M. P.

To /  
Sec. of Treas.



Mint of the United States,  
March 17, 1840.

Sir,

I send, by the present mail, to the  
Secretary of the Treasury, to be forwarded to  
you under his pack, a box containing

1 pair of dime, ~~three~~,

1 " " half-dime, & +

1 " " quarter-eagle dies.

I shall send in the same way, by to-morrow's  
mail, 1 pair half-dollar dies, and on the day  
after 1 pair quarter-dollar dies.

R. M. P.

To/  
Gov. W. Kennedy, Esq.  
Sub. Sec. Mint,  
New Orleans. }



Mint W. D.

March 17. '40

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending  
to you, by the present mail, a box of dies  
directed on the inner envelope to the Superin-  
tendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans,  
to be forwarded under your frank.

P. M. T.

To/

Sec. of Treas.



Statement of the operations of the United States Branch  
Mint, New Orleans, for the month of February 1840

The deposits of Silver Bullion amount to 30,933.  $\frac{75}{100}$  of gross  
Weight, Standard 30,556.  $\frac{75}{100}$  of Value \$35,556.87.  
Without including eight deposits which were not received  
in time to be assayed this month, but will be accounted  
for in a day or two.

The deposits of Gold Bullion amount to 207.  $\frac{592}{1000}$  of  
gross Weight, Standard 186.  $\frac{475}{1000}$  of Value \$3,469.20  
Without including one deposit not received in time to  
be assayed this month, but will be accounted for as above.

The amount of Silver Bullion delivered to the Melters &  
Refiners, 32,060.  $\frac{75}{100}$  of gross Weight, Stand. 31,676.  $\frac{75}{100}$  of  
and in Silver Clippings 28,553.  $\frac{75}{100}$  of Stand. Weight.

The amount of Silver Bullion received from the Melters  
& Refiners, in Ingots 67,762.  $\frac{75}{100}$  of Stand. Weight.

Amount of Gold Bullion delivered to the Melters  
& Refiners, 207.  $\frac{592}{1000}$  of gross, Stand. 186.  $\frac{475}{1000}$  of and in  
Gold Clippings 899.  $\frac{562}{1000}$  of Stand. Weight.

Amount of Gold Bullion received from the Melters  
& Refiners, in Ingots 3457.  $\frac{516}{1000}$  of Stand. Weight.

Amount of Silver Bullion delivered to the Coiner  
in Ingots 101,401.  $\frac{56}{100}$  of Stand. Weight; and received from  
him in Silver Clippings 28,553.  $\frac{75}{100}$  of Stand. Weight.

Amount of Gold Bullion delivered to the Coiner



in bags, 3457. <sup>550</sup>/<sub>1000</sub> of stand. weight, and received from  
him in Gold Clippings 899. <sup>850</sup>/<sub>1000</sub> of stand. weight.

The Coins received were as follows: 72000 half  
Dollars, and 6000 half Dimes weighing stand. 33.773. <sup>43</sup>/<sub>1000</sub>  
Value . . . . . \$ 39.300.00.  
And 3000 half Eagles, 106. <sup>850</sup>/<sub>1000</sub> of stand. weight. 15.000.00  
\$ 54.300.00

The eight Silver deposits, which have to be accounted  
for in a subsequent letter, amount to 1739. <sup>750</sup>/<sub>1000</sub> of  
gross weight - and the deposits of Gold Buttons, not  
melted, 18. <sup>620</sup>/<sub>1000</sub> of gross weight.

New Orleans March 1. 1840

Signed: H. C. Cammack  
Treas.



Mint of the United States,  
March 10. 1840

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 23d + 25th ult. As you request, I send you herewith a form for your monthly report. It is somewhat different from the one referred to in mine of Oct. 13th, but embraces, I believe, all that is necessary. I should be glad to receive from you such reports for January and February, and for the present month also, as soon as practicable after its close. From these monthly reports, I make quarterly reports to the Secretary of the Treasury, of the operations of the Branch Mints.

I beg that the circumstance of your delay in sending your report in January may not give you any further trouble. The matter has been explained to the Department.

Yours very respectfully,  
W. M. P.  
To  
Esq. Mr. Kennedy, Secy.







U. S. Branch Mint New Orleans  
March 8. 1840

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt  
from the Secretary of the Treas. of a package  
containing a copy of your letter of instruction to  
Mr. Bradford dated 25<sup>th</sup> May 1838 -

Let me renew the expression of my strong desire  
that you should keep us abundantly supplied  
with dies of all the denominations, including English.  
The necessity thereof for the present, arise  
from a want of experience on the part of our  
Clerk in the operation of handenging, to be  
expected in one so new in the discharge of  
his duties -

Our acids have not yet arrived -

Very respectfully

Your obed<sup>t</sup> servant

J. M. Kennedy

Sup<sup>t</sup>

R. M. Patterson Esq,  
Director &c



Wm. M. V.  
March 4 / 40.

Sir,

In your letter of the 8th ult., you submit to my approval the charge made by Mr. Stidell for the services rendered by him at the investigation held in your Mint. I have now to state, that, after giving this charge ~~my~~ full consideration, and taking into view the labor, time, and anxiety which the investigation cost, and the tariff ~~of~~ professional services understood to be established in New Orleans, I cannot pronounce Mr. Stidell's charge of one thousand dollars <sup>unreasonable</sup> ~~excessive~~, and that I think you would be justified in paying it, when you shall be in funds for this purpose to enable you to do so.

It is the judgment of our officers that of the <sup>twenty</sup> ~~seventeen~~ workmen allotted to your Mint, one should be for the Alloy, five for the Milled Refiners, and fourteen for the Coiners. But, in any case when such a number may be deemed ~~practicable~~ <sup>practicable</sup> and desirable, the men of our







within which this wastage must be con-  
fined, and as this limit is so ample  
that it is impossible it should be much  
except in the event of robbery or of  
gross carelessness, the arrangement now  
made does not affect the personal  
interests of either of the officers, but will  
only serve to divide the total charge  
of wastage more equally and more  
justly between them.

Inquiry is made by your Treasurer  
and controller as to propriety of melting Mex-  
ican dollars and French five-frank pieces  
into ingots without previous assay. I  
answer, first, that this is a question which  
immediately concerns the Assayer, whose  
duty it is to determine the value of the  
deposits, and who must be satisfied of  
the grounds of his calculations. But I  
will state, for the information of all com-  
mand, the practice at this Mint.

French five frank pieces are received  
at this as of the true standard gold, and  
melted without assay until they are in  
ingots. We have found no inconvenience  
in this course.

When small quantities of Mexican  
dollars are brought to us, say less



than 1000, we receive them as of the stand  
and 897, unless a careful inspection  
of them should lead the Assayer to  
suspect their quality, or unless he should  
see a larger proportion of them to be from  
Lacépèdeas Mint, (marked L,) as these are  
a little below 897, though probably they  
may run to 898.

When there is a large delivery of  
deposits of Mexican dollars, <sup>say 50,000,</sup> they are all  
spread over the floor, and are being strew-  
ed about so as to mix them as tho-  
roughly as possible, and two pounds of  
1000 dollars each are taken out promis-  
cuously, and melted separately into  
bars, which are assayed. If the assays  
of the two specimens agree, this is adop-  
ted as the standard of the shot. If they  
differ, a third melt is made.

In a letter from Mr. Cammack, of the  
16th ult., which I received the day before  
yesterday, he makes an inquiry about  
"the right to change American coins," which  
is so obscurely expressed, that I am in  
doubt whether I understand it. I will,  
however, <sup>frankly</sup> ~~plainly~~ my answer to suit



to the interpretation of which it is  
susceptible. And, first, if the receiv-  
age of our own coins be refused, I  
have to state that this must be refused  
in our case except that of gold coins  
made before the standard was changed in  
1834. If it be meant that to inquire  
whether, (all such certificates being paid  
off,) deposits may be paid for with  
coins which you have at the Mint, I  
answer—certainly. You have <sup>public funds</sup> a ~~deposite~~  
at your Mint, for this very purpose,  
under the provision of the act of July  
1836 regulating the deposits of public  
moneys. (see pamphlet p. 27.)

The supply of acids, respecting  
which you make inquiry, was ordered  
on the day on which your application  
for it was received.

I will see that care be taken to  
supply you with an additional set  
of <sup>new</sup> weights. The set asked for by Mr.  
Tyler is boxed up and will be sent by  
the first opportunity.

W. J. Kennedy, Esq.  
Asst. Sec. of the  
Mint

R. M. P.  
D. M.



Albion Wash.  
March 4/41.

Dear Sir,

I have to thank you for your letter of the 10th ult. I envy you your wanderings in the wilds of Texas, in search of plants and minerals. In my younger days, I was very fond of such excursions, and have walked on them hundreds of miles. I should be very glad to have the result of your researches for our Philosophical Transactions, and shall be glad to take charge of the matter for you. You are aware that all papers have to be referred to a Committee, and that the action of the Society is upon their report. I have no doubt, however, that your communication would be gladly received for our Volume. The expense of such plates as may be required can hardly equal that for Mr. Lea's shells; and I do not apprehend any serious difficulty on this score; but I will make inquiry on the subject, at our meeting of next Friday, and if objections are made to the expense, I will let you know.



I have written, by the present mail,  
to Mr. Kennedy, on the subject of the  
distribution of the moneys between the  
Coin & Mints, and the regulations to  
be observed in future in the delivery of  
ingots and clippings. I have also sent  
to him a copy of our printed regulations  
for the moneys, which will answer cer-  
tain inquiries made by Mr. John Dym-  
self. I must refer you also to my  
correspondence with the Superintendent,  
for my views as to receiving foreign coins  
without assay.

R. M. P.

I

Ed/  
Dr. J. L. Riddell,  
Mint & Refining Branch  
New Orleans



Mint U.S.

March 4/49.

Sir,

I find that there is on my file  
a letter from you of the 6th ult. which  
I am prompted to answer.

I have given instructions to have you  
furnished with a full supply of dies.  
It is impossible to answer, with any pre-  
cision, what is the number of coins that  
may be struck with one pair of dies. A  
Perhaps 200,000 may be given as a fair  
medium. We have struck 400,000 half  
dimes.

In answer to your inquiries respecting  
regulations for the mintage, I send, di-  
rected to Mr. Kennedy, a copy of our  
printed regulations.

~~Mr. Peabody~~ says that any metallic  
scale, such as is found in cases of mathe-  
matical instruments, will be sufficiently ac-  
curate for fixing the diameters of your  
dies.

To/ Philo B. Tyler, Esq.  
Chief Clerk, U.S. Mint

R. M. P.  
D. M.



March 3<sup>d</sup> 1840  
Branch Mint U.S. New Orleans

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> ult. came to hand yesterday. I thought the information given to Mr. Kennedy, in regard to Mr. Marshall's bath, was sufficient, or I should have written before this. — These baths were ordered for this mint, and paid for — the former <sup>was</sup> ordered on the 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 1838, in words following: —

"I have been requested to procure the bath you made for the 1<sup>st</sup> Exhibition, and to have it forwarded to me immediately. I have therefore to request that you ship it to me at once, and I will remit a draft at sight for the amount, less twenty five dollars, for which I will send you a receipt, as agreed between us when I was in Philad<sup>a</sup>."

This bath was sold by my late Brother for which he received the money. To my positive knowledge, it was also known that the bath had not been paid for, by my late Brother. I was acquainted with the arrangement made between him and Mr. Marshall about the twenty five dollars to be given for the bath.



of each letter. & after my father's death I was awaiting  
an opportunity of writing Mr Marshall something de-  
cisive in regard to the estate. When he sent me  
a bill for the latter, made out against the Mint.  
I was so much astonished at his apparent mis-  
understanding, that I neglected writing him, until  
you wrote Mr Kennedy on the subject. When I gave  
him the same information as given above.

I then inform Mr Marshall that the  
Estate of Rufus Egle, Dec<sup>d</sup> is alone accountable to  
him for the latter. But, not at the rate charged  
in his bill, as is shown by the order for the same.

Also that I am the legal executor of the Estate  
and can give him any information he requires in  
regard to his claim. I am sorry you have been  
put to so much trouble in this matter, and  
hope the above will give you a correct idea "how it is"

your nephew Mr Evans called on us some  
three weeks since, and after a trip to Savannah  
is worth us again.

Our Mint is going on now  
prosperously than at any previous time. I am  
happy to state that I have been enabled to coin  
all the Bullion I could get, and at the same  
time to turn my attention to the repairs of the  
machinery. &c. I have but one trouble,  
which is on account of the dies, as I could

not run any yet but no except the Half dollars &  
Half dimes. The Quarter dollar press not being  
completed, and the dimes not wanted. I have  
however coined a few 10 Cents in the dime press, by  
turning it over by hand. With the Half dollar die  
I have coined about 90,000 pieces, and have now but  
one pair left which I fear will not stand to  
coin so many more. With the Half dime, I  
have coined about 100,000 pieces. But on account of  
one of the tail dies being cracked in hardening, I expect  
soon to go ashore on that tack - The fault is  
not alone in the hardening. I have been using  
bad silver. Besides, my annealer is inexperienced.  
Other circumstances, such as too thick much, or  
too little milling, have tended to wear out the  
dies, all of which difficulties require patience  
with skillful practice to overcome. Our  
debt in half dimes is at present in 160,000 pieces  
and is increasing daily. So that I beg you will  
send us a sufficient number of Half dime dies to  
enable us, if possible to give them enough of them.

I understand also that some large deposits in  
Mexican coins are ready for us, as soon as we pay off  
our present debt, which if correct they will effect in  
mediately, as there will be no delay in shipment - a large  
amount of gold is soon expected from the Department  
which I should advise being coined into Quarter Eagles  
for which we have no dies - Pardon me if I have  
regard this matter improperly as nothing but my



anxiety to satisfy the public, and to avoid unjust censure  
has induced me to write to you before this printing

We have been favored with your report to Congress  
through the Hon. S. H. Benton to Mr. H. H. H. Our view from  
Washington appears different, and should anything occur to  
our disadvantage, it may you will not forget us.

Dr. W. M. Patterson  
Director U. S. Mint

Very respectfully,  
John H. H. H.  
Philadelphia

W. M. Patterson



Dr. W. M. Patterson,  
Director U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia



Dr. W. M. Patterson,  
Director U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia,  
March 13, 1840.



U. S. Branch Mint  
New Orleans March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1846

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a Statement of our operations  
for the last month. In a communication to me from Mr.  
Cammack, he says.

"During the past month there were 70 deposits of silver -  
The debt of the Mint now amounts,

for silver deposits to	\$85,174.35
"Gold Deposits	22,129.67
	<hr/> 107,304.42

I have in hand

Silver Coins	\$34,589.90
Gold Coins	15,713.28
	<hr/> 50,303.18

Val.<sup>e</sup> due - \$57,011.24

"We are not as near out of debt as I had anticipated  
but the recent deposits have been larger than expected."

I have been requested by the M<sup>rs</sup>. & W<sup>rs</sup>.  
to say to you that the following articles are wanted in  
our department.

50	Black lead Pots	Size No. - 60
50	do do do	do - No. - 80
20	do do do	Lids Diameter - 10 Inches
20	do do do	do do - 8 do
20	do do do	do do - 7 do

I have likewise stand in need of an "apparatus  
for agitating in the Humid Air" such as is used in  
Phil<sup>a</sup>. to work without steam / and to save the expense  
of "Spring S."



Will you be good enough to inform me whether you  
do not think it would be advisable to put a stop  
to the extra pay which comes every month upon the  
roll, and to require that in future all the work  
necessary in the different departments should be  
done within the regular hours -

Very respectfully

Your obed. Servant.

J. M. Kennedy

Sup.

R. W. Patterson Esq.

Director &

P. H.



U. S. Branch Mint  
New Orleans, Feb 25 1840

Sir,

We perceive that the instructions of Feb. 14 and Oct. 13 1840, with regard to the monthly operations of this Mint, referred to in your letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., and which in my last communication to you, I observed that I had not seen, are contained in two letters of those dates from you to Mr. Bradford. There is one document however mentioned in that of the 13<sup>th</sup> Oct. which we have not been able to find, and that is, the statement containing "the items omitted in former reports, and also to serve as a form, &c, embracing all desirable subjects of inquiry in regard to Deposits and Comage." If you will be so kind as to send us another copy of that statement, its requisitions shall be strictly complied with.

I yesterday saw a letter from Mr. Nicholas, one of our Senators, in which he says that it appeared to be the wish of those feeling an interest in the affairs of our Mint, that the Superintendent should reside on the premises. He also mentions the fact, of your report to the President being incomplete, for the want of our statement. With regard to the residence, I have in a



communication to him, quoted two passages of your  
letter to me of the 3<sup>d</sup> December 1839, which, together  
with one on the same subject from Mr. Commack  
containing a corroborating post-script from Mr.  
Stidell will, I think, satisfy him of the propriety  
of preferring the Treasurer, as a resident officer,  
to the Superintendent.

In relation to the cause of the incom-  
plete state of your report, I have spoken to  
him with the same frankness that I did to you  
adding, that as this was the first oversight,  
and, as I conceived that I had not at that  
period been a sufficient length of time in my  
present office, to be fairly presumed to have  
a thorough acquaintance with all its details,  
I hoped the omission would be overlooked.  
Let me again request your good offices with  
the Secretary of the Treasury.

Respectfully

Your obed<sup>t</sup> servant

W. M. Patterson Esq<sup>r</sup>

Director of the Mint of  
the U. S.

Phil<sup>a</sup>.

Wm. H. H. H.

Sept



Wm. M. S.

Feb. 24/40.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst., in which you state that some dissatisfaction has been expressed at the small amount of Coinage at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, and ask whether, in my opinion, this complaint has a reasonable foundation.

In reply I have to mention, first, that the Coiner, Mr. Tyler, did not enter upon his office on the 17th of November, and found much immediately connected with his attention to the receiving and selection of workmen, and the repairs and arrangement of the machinery of his department, but could not lawfully commence coining until the Muller and Refiner, Dr. Riddell, should enter upon the discharge of his duties. Now, in consequence of the absence of this gentleman, on a botanical and geological tour in the wilds of Texas, he did not even hear of his appointment until the beginning of December, and did not give his official bonds until the 9th of that month. Under these



circumstances, the coinage, up to the end of  
the year, of 75,396 pieces of coin, amounting  
to \$33,490, ought not, I think, to give  
rise to any dissatisfaction.

I am not informed of the amount of  
coinage, <sup>at the Bureau</sup> since the commencement of the year,  
but my last letter from that Mint is written  
in a tone of confidence, and gives me the  
assurance, on which I count much for the  
success of the establishment, that "harmony  
and good feeling prevail among the offi-  
cers."

P. M. P.

Se

To  
Hon. Lewis Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury



W. S. Branch M<sup>st</sup> New Orleans,  
Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> 1840

Sir,

Yours of the 12<sup>th</sup> inst<sup>mt</sup> I have this moment rec<sup>d</sup>. I  
regret exceedingly the delay which occurred in transmitting  
to you the information asked for in your letter of the  
17<sup>th</sup> December last, and the only apology I can offer  
is, that that section of the law fixing the period for  
your annual report, has entirely escaped my recollection.  
In your letter above refer'd to, you ask / together  
with the statement of our operations / for any other  
information or suggestions which I may deem impor-  
tant for your "annual report to the President".  
Without intending in the slightest degree, to  
make you a participant in my fault, it is  
unfortunate for me, that in that letter no mention  
was made of the time limited for the presentation  
of that report. In my forgetfulness of the  
law itself, any intimation whatever from you,  
calculated to recall it to my mind, would have  
prevented on my part, the thought of which  
gives me much pain, and of which, I trust  
that there shall be no recurrence - I hope  
you will also take into consideration that we



have all been but a short time in office, are yet inexperienced, and without any thing like regular instructions, those of the 25. May 1838 of which you promised us a copy, not having yet been received. With regard to the monthly reports of the operations of our Mint you call my attention to your instructions of the 14. Feb and 13. Oct 1838. I have seen no such, and am now ignorant, of the time within which these reports must be made out by the Treasurer to be transmitted to you, but also that the sending them at all is a matter of instruction. Many of the documents belonging to this Institution were either mislaid during the late investigation, or appended, I presume to the record of the proceedings, and this fact has not been noticed before, because we presume that the instructions of the 25. May 1838 which we have been expecting for some time will contain all the information we shall require. I will hereafter order that on the 1st day of every month a statement be made out of the operations of the month preceding to be transmitted to you without delay.

The following is an extract from a report received from the Treasurer.  
"I have the pleasure of transmitting you, the

following Statement of the operations of the Mint for the month of January 1840.

The deposits of Silver Bullion amount to 3940.65 of gross weight - Standard 3901.56 oz - Value \$4539.71.

The deposits of Gold Bullion amount to 17.43 of gross weight, Standard 12.253.03. Value \$227.96.

I have delivered to the Miller of Refiner in Silver Bullion Standard Weight 89.046.55 g and have rec'd from him in Dregots 37.105.45 g and have also delivered him in Gold Clippings and Bullion 4.857.436 oz.

To the Comer I have delivered in Silver Dregots 4.65.813.06 ounces, and received from him in clippings 15.416.40 oz, and in Coins 16.757.50 oz - I also delivered him one ounce in gold Bullion -

The Coins received were as follows

13,000	130,000 dimes,
5,000	110,000 1/2 dimes,
1,000	2,000 1/4 dollar,
19,000	

I have paid Certificates and Warrants of Silver deposits amounting to \$16,260.34 and of gold \$23,517.27.

With regard to the delay which is the subject of the first part of this letter, let me beg you to place it before the Secretary of the Treasury in a light as little unfavorable as possible.

R. M. Patterson Esq.  
Director of the Mint of  
the U. S.

Philadelphia

Very respectfully  
J. M. Lenoir  
Sept.



Feb. 22<sup>d</sup>, 1840

Sir,

By 3.55 ozs. stand? silver, and ~~1.22~~<sup>0.22</sup> oz. stand? gold; -  
being the weight of Assay slips, sent to this Mint, for  
Assay, in the year 1839, from New Orleans Br. Mint. Value \$8.35

By 25.99 oz. Stand. Silver, and 1.209 oz. Stand. P. Gold -  
and sent to the Mint  
being the coins received at N. O. P. Mint in 1839, for  
the Annual Assay. Value ————— 52.75

Total ————— \$61.10

In the last item is included the coins sent from  
your mint on the 8th Decr '39 & 21st ult., and also  
from a delivery of Jan. 11th, 1839.  
of half dimes, received Nov. 1st 1839 with the assay coins  
of 1838, on the 1st Feb. 1839.

In your letter to me of the 21<sup>st</sup> ult., you state  
 that two drafts, <sup>amounting to \$525.</sup> drawn by Mr. Bradford, (and paid here)  
 are not credited in the books of your office. I conclude,  
 from an examination of my duplicate vouchers, that these  
 are the drafts, both dated Aug. 5, 1839, <sup>which constitute</sup> ~~and making vouchers~~  
 448 + 449 in my account rendered Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1839, ~~at these~~  
~~not that I can give any~~ <sup>and which</sup> ~~they~~ speak for themselves. So far  
 as <sup>that</sup> ~~my~~ account is concerned. ~~As the money in my~~  
~~hands forms a part of your ordinary funds~~  
 The money in my hands is a part of your ordinary funds.



If your predecessor allowed these drafts  
upon it, he ought to be able to show why.

R.M.D.

Lot

St. C. Cammack, Esq.,

Treasurer St. Louis,

New Orleans.



United States Branch Mint  
New Orleans, February 21, 1840

Sir,

The following dies, dated, 1839 have been defaced in my presence by the Comr, by heating them and putting a cross on their face.

Half dollar	3 pair	and one tail die	- 7
1 dime	4	1	9
Half dime	4	2	10
Quarter eagle	1		2
			<hr/> 28.

Residual  
1 half dollar, tail  
1 dime — tail 1/2  
1/4 quarter eagle 2

These last will not be used without your approbation.  
I would respectfully request you to keep us well supplied with dies of all the denominations. This is the more necessary now, as we have not yet had sufficient experience to have arrived at our great accuracy in hardening.  
I am desired by our Melters and Refiners to ask you whether the pickling and annealing by the Comr previous to weighing, must be adopted as an instruction, and if so, whether the clippings should not likewise be pickled and annealed.  
Let me beg you to lose no time in sending out the 50 Carbon Molds and ordered a few days since.  
respectfully your obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

R. M. Patterson Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Director Mint of the U. S.  
Phil<sup>a</sup>

J. McKim  
Sg<sup>r</sup>



Treasury Department  
February 21. 1860.

Sir,

Some dissatisfaction has been expressed  
at the small amount of coinage at the Branch Mint  
at N. Orleans since the newly appointed officers  
entered upon their duties.

I will thank you to  
make the necessary inquiries and to report to this  
Department whether, in your opinion, a reasonable amount  
has been coined at that Branch since the appoint-  
ment of the new officers, and if not what has been  
the cause of the deficiency. Perhaps since the arrival of Decr.  
all the previous delay has been remedied. Very Respectfully

Samuel Woodbury  
Sec. of the Treasury

D. R. M. Patterson  
Philad.



Mint W. D.  
Feb. 20. '40.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending,  
herewith, a package containing instructions  
& forms for the Supt. of the P. M. Mint at  
New Orleans, to whom it is addressed, - to  
be forwarded under your frank.

R. M. P.

To,  
Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Sec. of Treas. }



Mint of the United States,  
Feb. 20. 1840.

Sir,

I send you, herewith, a copy of my  
letter to Mr. Bradford, of May 25, 1838,  
<sup>referred to in my letter of Nov. 9, 1839</sup>  
containing full instructions for the course  
of Mint business, and referred to in my letter  
to you of Jan. 9th, 1839. I send also some  
~~of the forms upon which it refers~~  
I have not deemed it necessary to send  
to you the forms of Journal & Ledger  
<sup>and the abstracts</sup> to which it refers; ~~as they originally~~  
~~sent~~ but should this be desired by your  
Treasury, they will be prepared & forwarded.

R. M. P.

Le/  
Esq. M. Kennedy, Esq. }  
Dep. & Co. Mint, }  
New Orleans. }



Mint of the United States,

Feb. 19. 1840.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Marshall has just called on me, and states that he has sent to New Orleans, in all, four lathes, viz:

1 of 7 inches centre, at \$ 375. -

1 of 14 " " " 770. -

2 of 5 " " " 135. - each.

Of these, the first two were for the Mint at New Orleans, and have been paid for here, (the duplicate receipts being now before me,) and are, I presume, the only lathes now at your Mint.

The two small lathes, as Mr. Marshall states, were sent to your late brother in obedience to his orders. ~~dated~~ ~~of~~ ~~March 1st~~ ~~and~~ ~~Nov 30th~~ ~~1838~~

The first was sent in April, 1838, having been ordered by your brother in a letter ~~dated~~ ~~March 1st~~ ~~1838~~, and was paid for, in Sept., 1838, when ~~he~~ <sup>your brother</sup> was in Phil<sup>a</sup>. - The last was sent in Jan. 1839, as or-

dered in a letter dated Nov. 30, 1838, subsequent to the date <sup>Mr. Marshall's</sup> of ~~the~~ receipt found among your brother's papers, and is the one for which Mr. Marshall now claims payment. If ~~from~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~your~~ <sup>brother's</sup> letter, also referred to, which

I have seen, I feel satisfied that neither of the two small lathes was intended for your Mint, but that they were ordered by your brother for some other establishment.



This you can readily determine; and I will  
thank you to inform me how it is, and to state  
for the information of Mr. Marshall, what  
was done with the latter last sent, & to whom he  
must look for payment.

I have to acknowledge the receipt  
of your letter of the 6th inst., and will  
reply to inquiries in a few days.

J. B. M. P.

To Philad B. Tyler, Esq. }  
Care of Mr. Munt. }  
New Orleans. }



United States Branch Mint, New Orleans

Treasurer's Office 14<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1846

Sir

I beg to enquire from you what is the custom of the Mint in Philadelphia in receiving deposits of coins in large sums, such as Mexican or Spanish Dollars, and French five franc pieces. - Are not these sometimes taken at a standard, which experience has proved to be an average one, without melting for assay. - If I mistake not I was told at the Mint last summer, that Mexican coins are received there at 897. - In such case what sort of certificate is the Treasurer to receive from the Assayer? -

I beg also to enquire how far I have the right to change American coins, after all the outstanding certificates are paid, (which I hope will be done within this month) for the purpose of having the latter received by the Mint. - I make this enquiry because this Mint will soon use up all the Bullion on hand, and will require a further supply on which to work. - Any quantity of foreign coins can be obtained by exchanging for them our coin, but until we can give some assurance of the product of such operations, Banks & individuals will not take the risk by depositing largely. -

A large amount of foreign coins are on the



Vaults of the Banks, which they would be glad to convert into  
American Coins, if to be done without loss to them. Most  
of the deposits now made are in small sums, by parties  
who want half dimes. Application has been made  
by Depositors for half Dimes to be sent to the Havana,  
these are most wanted here and pass generally for 6¢ each,  
while Dimes in our Markets will not pass for more.

We are very much in want of one or two  
additional sets of weights, there is now but one set  
in the Mint, which is continually in motion between the  
Mintmaster, Meltor & Refiner and Coiner; all three,  
being compelled to use this one set.

I am very truly & faithfully

Yours

A. C. Cammack

Treasurer

J. R. Patterson

Director U. S. Mint

Philadelphia



Mont. Wash.  
Feb. 12th /40.

Sir,

I regret to state that the information, asked for in my letter of the 17th of December, to enable me to make up my annual report to the President, was not received by me until the 6th inst., not having been sent from New Orleans until the 23d ~~of January~~ <sup>ult.</sup>. Now the act ~~of~~ law requires that my annual report be presented in the month of January, and it has heretofore been sent about the 15th. On this occasion, it was delayed to the end of the month, and was then sent <sup>incomplete</sup> ~~incomplete~~ ~~as to your object~~, with the reason of course stated. You ~~were not to have been aware of the necessity~~. The Secretary of the Treasury instructs me to inquire of you the reasons for this delay of your statement; but I am confident it must have been caused by your not adhering to the terms of the 2d section of the Act of 1837, which a copy is in your hands. I will beg you, in future years, to give the information required for the Director's Annual Report, at the earliest possible day after the close of the year.



The Commissioners for the Annual Assay had their meeting on the 10th inst. As to your Branch the report states that the gold pieces agreed in weight with the standard, and the silver pieces were in fine in weight one part in 5500: that the gold pieces exceeded the standard in fine with one part and seven-eighths in one thousand, and that the silver pieces were superior to the standard in fineness one part in 1250.

The trial thus showing the pieces to be according to law, <sup>they</sup> were approved, but it is necessary to state that the result of the gold assay was not satisfactory, in ~~as much as~~ as it approached so close upon the limit that would have caused its rejection. Although the law allows a variation of two thousandths, as a limit, it should be the point limit should not be ~~with~~ more than one thousandth. The variations from standard, for the other metals, did not exceed half a thousandth. It is but justice, however, to Dr. Hunt, to say, that the very small amount of your gold coinage placed him at a disadvantage. Where there are a great many mints, some <sup>will be</sup> above and others below standard, and the compensation of errors will ~~be~~ make its appearance in the general assay of the received specimens. *H. S.*

Your letter of the 30th ult. was received this morning, acknowledging the receipt of sets of dimes and half-dime dms. I hope that you have, by this time, received all the varieties of dms, for which you show so far for an anxiety. They were forwarded to you as follows:

1 pair dms	{ 15th Jan. — acknowledged.
1 " half-dim	
1 " dms	{ 18th "
1 " half-dim	
1 " half-dollar	{ 21st. "
1 " half-eagle	
1 " half-dollar	{ 22d. "
1 " quarter-dollar	

Your order for acids, of the 23d Jan., has been attended to.

You ask, in the same letter, for a balance and set of weights for the Mitten and Refiner. I hope that this expense and trouble may not be deemed needless. The balance would have to be purchased from Trimmer, for I know of no one here who could make it, except Mr. Barton, and he is fully engaged at this point. The weights would have to be made by Mr. Hassler, at Washington, and would probably cause a delay of many months. Our Mitten and Refiner has always made use of the



Treasurer's balance, and I hope that  
this credit may not be found too  
inconvenient for you.

R. M. P.

I

To  
Mr. Wm. Kennedy, Esq.,  
Sup. Br. Elliot,  
St. Orleans.

It may be proper to mention that when  
your received coins are <sup>examined</sup> by the  
Commissioners, they must be found to correspond  
to your lists.

~~Allow me to ask your attention to my  
instructions of the 1st, with regard to  
the number of pieces to be received at each  
delivery. We are under the impression that  
your gold coins are not sufficiently repre-  
sented. Then send out one piece from the last  
delivery.~~

Allow me ~~also~~ to ask your attention to my  
instructions of Feb. 12 & Oct. 13, 1838, with regard to the  
~~quarterly~~ monthly reports of the operations of  
your Mint.



Mint M.S.

Feb. 11/40.

Sir,

I have the honor to send to you herewith  
a copy of the Minutes of the proceedings of the  
Commissioners for the annual assay held yesterday.  
You will see that the trial passed the stand-  
ards and weights to be all within the law legal  
limits, and they were approved accordingly.  
They were indeed all perfectly satisfactory  
except the quality of the gold coins from the  
New Orleans Mint which was on the very verge  
of the legal limit, - being  $17\frac{1}{8}$  thousandths above  
standard when the limit is 2 thousandths. I  
will call the attention of the Mint Commissioners,  
Sayer, Dr. Holt, to this circumstance.

R.M.P.

I

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury  
Sec. of Treasury.



United States Branch Mint  
St. Louis 11 February 1840

Dear Sir,

Want of leisure and domestic  
misfortune have prevented me from writing  
to you at an earlier day. I arrived home  
from Texas on the 5th Dec. and immediately  
entered upon the duties of my office as  
Melter and Refiner. I was not aware of  
my appointment until three or four days  
before my arrival.

In the purpose of exploring the rich  
mineral country near the San Saba, and  
of making botanical collections in those  
previously unexplored regions, I joined  
a company of Indian rangers, and was  
six weeks in the wild beyond the frontier  
settlements. During my travels I collected  
preserved, and on the spot minutely  
described, between 100 & 200 new species  
of plants. I should like to publish the  
same with drawings. Be good enough  
to ascertain whether the Am. Phil. Society  
would like such communications for their  
Journal. I should like a colored copper plate  
engraving of every remarkable new genus & species.  
I am aware it would be expensive, more so  
than I would care to undertake singly.  
The drawings I have begun. The size of the



Journal of the Am. Phil. Soc. suits me much better than the small columns of the Phil. Acad. of Natural Sciences.

Since the 11<sup>th</sup> of Jan. I have received from our Treasurer 37.139 <sup>two</sup> 90 of Silver Bullion containing gold, besides a pretty large amount of gold containing silver. There was but one whole glass muffle in the separating room. Some two weeks since we received a supply, and have since separated about 100 lbs of Bullion. You will be wished to by our Superintendent to decide whether my department is entitled to four or five men. I claim two in the separating room, and three in the melting room, as being in accordance with first arrangements, and the least number adequate to go on simultaneously with the business of both rooms.

I shall be thankful for communications relating to melting and refining - the results of experience - especially in reference to the best modes of recovering a small amount of silver or gold from a large amount of dirt, old pots, ashes &c.

In what condition should clippings be delivered from the furnace. It has occurred to me that as great surface is exposed, and the allowance 24 hours only on each draft - the same as on ingots; the clippings ought to be clean. The fault I have found with Mr. Tyler's clippings is, that in burning off the grease, he has by a smothered combustion left a thin coating of charcoal and bituminous <sup>matter</sup> sometimes. Now Mr. T. and myself are

good friends, and I do not wish to be understood as finding fault with him. We have neither of us the experience, to know how the muffle should be.

The Treasurer has proposed to me to receive and melt into ingots, without assaying previously, the deposits of Mexican, Spanish and French silver coins. At what weight and fineness should I so receive them?

I came near forgetting one subject. Our workmen are very willing, and even rather disposed, to make what they call over time, that is, to be paid for, from one or two to six days extra in a month. If it be a right and proper thing of our workmen over others who labor, - sanctioned by your customs in Philad. - all is right. If not, I should like your advice.

Harmony and good feeling prevail among us.

Yours respectfully

J. L. Riddell.

R. R. M. Patterson.



U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans  
February 8<sup>th</sup> 1840

Sir,

Since my last letter to you announcing that one box  
had come to hand containing one pair of dies, and one  
pair of 1/2 die dies, we have rec<sup>d</sup> three others, the  
four boxes containing altogether eight pair of dies  
for the year 1840 - viz -

2 1/2 die dies  
2 1/2 die dies  
2 1/2 die dollars  
1 die 1/4 dollar  
1 die 1/2 Eagle -

They are now being adjusted &c in accordance with  
your instructions.

I have found your letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> June 1839, to  
which you refer for the manner in which the  
old dies are to be cancelled, and will in a short  
time send you the required report in relation  
thereto.

Mr. Stedole has presented his bill. His charge  
is One thousand dollars, and, as I informed you  
some time since, he looks to our Branch for  
payment. I submit this charge for your



approval, and would like to hear from you in  
relation to it, as soon as convenient -

We do not find, either in the law, or in any of  
the letters or instructions from you any information  
relative to the distribution of the twenty work-  
men allowed to this Mint. One of them we  
know, belongs to the Assay department but of  
the remaining nineteen, I wish you to decide  
as soon as possible, whether the Comer is  
entitled to 15, or the Mallet and Refiner  
to 5.

We have not yet rec<sup>d</sup> a copy of your instructions  
dated May 25. 1838 -

Respectfully,  
Dear Sir,

J. M. Hamers,  
Sgt.

R. W. Patterson Esq.

Director U. S. Mint, P.





Mint of the U. S.  
Feb. 7. 1840.

Gentlemen,

I will thank you to have  
prepared & shipped, as soon as practicable,  
to the U. S. Branch Mint at New Orleans,  
fifty cartons of Nitric Acid.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

per Geo. T. Downing,

Director's Clerk.

To  
Messrs John Fawcett & Co.,  
Manuf. Chemists,

Coates' Street

Phil.



you will find

Mint of the U.S.  
Feb 9 1840.

Sir,

I have this day transmitted to the  
President a Supplemental Statement  
of the operations of the operations of the  
New Orleans Mint for the past  
year, of which I send you a copy  
enclosed.

R. W. P.

(To) Hon. Levi Woodbury }  
Sec. of Treasury }



(Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 1840)  
U.S. Branch Mint New Orleans

To  
Dr R. M. Patterson }  
Director U.S. Mint }

Dear Sir

I have received  
from our Superintendent two pair of Half  
dollar dies and some of smaller denomination.

I have to request that you will  
make some allowance for my want of expe-  
rience in tempering the dies, and would re-  
mind you of their liability to crack in  
hardening &c. I beg therefore you will send  
us a sufficient number to prevent any  
delay for want of them, and in a short time  
I will inform you of my success in using  
them. I would thank you to state to me  
the number of coins that each pair should  
stamp when properly tempered.

As you have requested me  
to write you on all matters connected  
with the Mint, I would mention



that all think we are laboring under much  
inconvenience, for want of ~~your~~ instruction  
from you, in relation to the duties of the sev-  
eral officers, and rules of the Mint generally.

I beg you will mention particularly  
of the number of hours required of the  
workmen per day, including the time of  
eating their dinners, which you know  
is always done in the Mint and requires  
but a few minutes, and whether or not, it  
is customary to allow them pay for time worked  
over the regular hours when it is necessarily re-  
quired of them (excepting the fireman who comes  
before the others to raise steam &c)

I have received through the Sup.  
your instructions in regard to the size of  
coins, and the only difficulty I fear, is in  
procuring the proper inch.

I expect to have the quarter dollar  
piece in operation about the middle of March.

Very Respectfully

Your Humble Servant

Philip B. Tyler  
Coiner

R. M. Patterson  
Director



Minst M.S.  
Feb. 3d, 1840.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ult., and of the coins for the annual assay sent therewith from the Mint at New Orleans.

I have received, this morning, from the Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint, a letter of the 21st of January, but I am still without the information for which my annual report was so long delayed. From the endorsements on the <sup>packages of</sup> assay pieces sent, it would appear that the ~~silver~~ coins, since the resumption of work at that Mint, has been

In quarter eagles,	\$ 23,490.
In half dollars,	8,000
In dimes,	1,000
Total —	\$ 32,490

I am more curious, however, to know the amount of their deposits.

I have to acknowledge your letter of the 30th inst., <sup>meaning, under the Executive instructions, the</sup> ~~with the President's appointment of~~ Additional Commissioners for the annual assay. ~~at~~ Col. Biddle and Dr. Bacha accept their appointments. The letter to Mr. Ingham has been forwarded to Harrisburg, where he is at present.

Yr. Sec. of Treasury.

A. M. P. J.



Treasury Department  
January 31. 1840

Sir

I transmit to your address by this  
mail a package of Coins for assay - received this  
morning from the Branch Mint at N. Orleans.  
Very Respectfully

Louis Woodbury  
Sec. of the Treasury

J. R. M. Patterson  
Philad.



U. S. Branch Mint

New Orleans, January 30. 1840

Sir,

I rec<sup>d</sup> by the mail of yesterday, one set of dies, and one set of 1/2 dime dies for the year 1840, and was much disappointed, at not getting those of all the other denominations, at the same time. We have a great quantity of Bullion on hand, and have certificates out to a large amount, which we are extremely anxious to pay off at an early day. I have, since the first of the month, under the advice of the District Attorney, rather than suspend operations, with the expenses of the Government running on, kept the Comer at work, with such of the old dies, as were fit for use, but great care has been necessary, in order to make them last as long as possible, and this has of course produced delay. I beg that you will lose no time in sending out the other dies.

Respectfully, Y<sup>r</sup> Obedt Serv<sup>t</sup>

J. M. Lemaire  
Sub<sup>d</sup>

R. M. Patterson Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Director of the Mint of the U. S.  
Pa.



Miss M. J.  
Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, 1840.

Sir,

I received yesterday your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> inst., with the accompanying statement of the expenditures by Mr. Forstall and Mr. Cummings, out of the appropriations made for the Building and Machinery for the Branch Office at New Orleans.

In your letter you ask me to inform you "whether the outbuildings, which have cost very large sums, were built under my direction or with my sanction, and if not, by whose direction they were erected, and of what they consist." You also mention "that <sup>there are</sup> some heavy charges for furniture, small mantels, &c.," and ask "whether these expenditures were authorized by me, and whether all or how many officers of the Office reside in the buildings."

To your several inquiries, I have now the honor to present the following answers.

The plans for the Office Building at New Orleans were prepared under the direction of my predecessor in office, and, having received the approbation of the Department, their execution was committed to Mr. Gordon, Secy., as Commissioner for this purpose. In December 1835, I made a visit to Philadelphia, and on the 17<sup>th</sup> of that month, I wrote to you a letter, of which the following paragraph is an extract.

"Gen. Gordon, of New Orleans, is now with me. We have carefully studied the appropriation of the apartments in the Branch Office, now



building, and find, that besides accommodating all the machinery and operations of the plant, residences may be found for at least three of the Officers, and this without extending the building, or increasing the cost. Gen. Gordon will show you the plans next week, and submit them for your approbation."

You will observe, then, first, that no new building or out-building was proposed; secondly, that no increase of cost was contemplated to be incurred; and, thirdly, that your approbation was to be obtained by the Commissioners.

In a letter from Gen. Gordon, of Dec. 27, 1836, after speaking of the deficiency and insufficiency of the appropriations for completing the stock building, he says: "The part now finished, or nearly so, will be sufficient to go on with the operations of the plant upon a confined scale. I apprehend, however, that but a temporary inconvenience can be experienced by the Officers of the plant, till the other wing is finished, which will make the other wing edifice complete, according to the plan approved by the Secretary of the Treasury. It must, however, be observed, that the approval was confined, as respects the expenditures, to the appropriations made by Congress." In a subsequent part of the same letter, he says, "When the stock edifice is completed, it will be conveniently calculated for the operations of the plant, and the accommodation of all its Officers with the exception of the Superintendent."

The officers who now reside in the

building of the stock plant, and the Quartermaster, the Commissary, and the Assistant Surgeon, and I deem their residence there of great importance to the public interests, by <sup>ensuring</sup> ~~securing~~ their constant presence ~~in~~ <sup>in the place of their</sup> business, and by the increased <sup>safety</sup> ~~security~~ <sup>as</sup> well as efficiency thereby afforded.

I know nothing of the erection of out-buildings, nor have any been erected built under my direction & with my sanction, - the erection of buildings not having been placed under my control. It is evident, however, that some out-buildings must have been necessary, though I cannot conceive that they should have been of a costly character, and I am much surprised at the amount of the bills for this purpose.

On the subject of the furniture purchased for the plant, I get my first information from the statement of which you have sent to me. Book-cases, tables, desks, chairs, are certainly necessary, as are also mantels and grates. The true question is whether the expenditures, under these heads, were made with a due regard to economy. Mantels seem to enter very largely into the accounts, but as they are always mixed with other <sup>items</sup> ~~articles~~ in the statement, and as some of these, - such as railing, labor, castings, - may have been very costly, it is difficult to judge of the degree of extravagance in this <sup>article</sup> ~~item~~.

My letter of the 26th inst., contains the



My letter of the 20th gives some account  
of my own expenditures on account of the other  
Illians visit; as to all this, I am, as you  
must perceive, very imperfectly informed.  
It is certain that expenses at St. Albans  
cannot be paid by the tariff of charges  
in the northern parts of the United States.

P.M. P.

I

Wm. Lewis Webb Esq.  
Sec. of Treasury.

10

June 3. 1840.

Wm. Lewis Webb Esq.  
Sec. of Treasury.



Treasury Department  
January 25. 1840.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of  
yours of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and of the box of dis. referred to,  
which will be forwarded to N. Orleans.

As objections are made at the Post Office, to the  
transportation of such heavy packages by mail, I  
would suggest the expedience of having the sets divided  
hereafter, and sent by different mails.

Very Respectfully

Samuel Woodbury  
Sec. of the Treasury

S. R. M. Patterson  
Philad.<sup>a</sup>



Treasury Department  
January 23. 1840

Sir,

The box of dies referred to in yours  
of the 21<sup>st</sup>. has been received and forwarded to the  
Superintendent of the Branch Mint at N. Orleans,  
Very Respectfully

Sam<sup>l</sup> Amstrong  
Sec. of the Mint.

D. W. M. Patterson  
Director of the Mint  
Philad<sup>a</sup>.



U. S. Branch Mint  
New Orleans, January 23<sup>d</sup> 1840

Sir,

I forwarded to you by the mail of the 21<sup>st</sup> inst, under cover to the Secretary of the Treasury, the assay coins rescued from deliveries made at this Mint, during the last month and of which the following is a statement -

10 Dimes	Taken from a delivery of 10,000 Dimes	
	Made 5 Dec. 1839	\$ 1.00
4 1/2 Dollars	Taken from a delivery of 16,000	
	Half Dollars made 30 Dec. 1839	2.00
1 1/2 Eagle	Taken from a delivery of 9346	
	1/4 Eagle, made 30 Dec. 1839	2.50
		<u>5.50</u>

I herewith enclose a copy of a letter, received by me a few days ago, from our Treasurer. It shows what we have done, since the recommencement of operations. The allowance for Wastage, of which he speaks, has been settled. The accounts for the last quarter are closed, and they will be without delay forwarded to the Treasury Department.



I will transmit to you at the same time an abstract thereof.

In reference to the Letter sent to Mr. Rufus T. Lee in November 1838, you will find, upon inspection of a letter, written at that time, by that gentleman to Mr. Marshall / which I presume he has kept, and a copy of which I have seen / that it was not ordered for this Institution, but, I think, for the New Orleans and Nashville Rail Road Co. That which was purchased for this Inst in Sept. 1838 has been paid for, and Mr. Marshall's receipt for the money (\$135.) has been found among the papers of the late Comr, of his brother, and placed in my hands.

I have been requested by the Matter and Refuser to get you to send out for the use of his Department one set of Sir, weights, measures and decimals, from 500<sup>oz</sup> to 0.1 =  $\frac{1}{10}$  of an ounce together with the balance, also 50 cards of Arithm. and - Our dies for this year have not yet arrived - We are expecting them with the utmost anxiety - As all the officers of the Mint appear now thoroughly to understand their

business, I think that we shall get along to the entire satisfaction both of the Government and the Public -

Very respectfully

John Smith, Secy.

J. M. Patterson

J. M. Patterson Esq.  
Director of the Mint of the U. S.  
Philad.



Mint of the U. S.  
Jan. 22. 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to request, that  
you will forward to New Orleans, under  
your pack, the accompanying box of  
dies, for the Branch Mint at that place.

W. W. P.  
D.

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Sec. of Treas. }



United States Branch Mint  
New Orleans January 21 1840

Sir

I have received your letter of 4th instant with a statement of your account. There is still a difference of \$525. between your account and the books of this office, being the amt of two drafts drawn by the late Superintendent and not credited in the books, about which I have had no instructions.

The accounts for Contingent & ordinary expenses for 4<sup>th</sup> q<sup>r</sup> 1839 are closed & will be forwarded in a day or two. The biller accounts will be ready in a few days.

I am very sincerely & truly

Yours

A. C. Cunniff

Treasurer

To  
Dr R. M. Patterson  
Director  
U. S. Mint.



Mint of the United States,  
Jan. 21. 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send here  
with, a third box of dies for New Orleans  
Br. Mint, which I beg you to forward  
as before under your frank.

R.M.P.

Dr.

To / Hon Levi Woodbury, }  
Sec. of Treasry. }



Treasury Department  
January 26. 1876.

Sir

The Box of dies received this morning  
has been forwarded to the Sup. Mint at N. Orleans  
in compliance with your request.

Very Respectfully

Samuel H. Murray  
Sec. of the Mint.

L. V. M. Patterson  
Philad<sup>a</sup>.



Dea Patterson  
Director US Mint  
Philadelphia

New Orleans January 19<sup>th</sup> 1860

Sir When I last saw you in Philadelphia I understood you to say that there was nothing in my testimony that could give offence that I might return to New Orleans with perfect safety & that even if Mr Taylor was prejudiced against me it not be but Mr Kennedy who had the right to appoint workman your conversation induced me to believe that I should experience no difficulty in being reemployed on my arrival, Mr Taylor said he had no use for my services I applied to Mr Kennedy who put me off for some time and then told me that he had received a letter from you altogether unfavorable to my application for reemployment stating that you had not given me any encouragement but rather the contrary, Now Sir I must say that I think it a very hard case that Dennis, Hamsted, Moore, & myself who remained during the greater part of the summer, and had the yellow fever while in the service of the United States, should be without any cause turned off We had escaped the fever had become acclimated, had gained much experience in the



Print, I have requested by the late  
superintendent to return to our posts, I think  
this is poor encouragement for Workmen to  
leave the north, & run the risk of their lives  
and leaving their families destitute, by being  
employed in the mint at New Orleans, I have  
waited for some time to write on this subject  
but my feelings have at last compelled me  
to do it.

I am very respectfully

Your Obedt. Servt.

Wm. D. Johnson

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting in the lower portion of the left page, appearing to be a continuation of the letter or a separate note.]*

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting on the right page, possibly a signature or address.]*



Mint of N. S.  
Jan. 18. 1871.

Sir,

I have <sup>the honor to send</sup> ~~enclosed to your address~~ by  
the present mail, <sup>to your address</sup> a second box of dies, di-  
rected to the Supt. N. W. Orleans Br. Mint, and  
which and to request that it may be forwarded  
under your pack.

J. W. P.

(To)  
Hon. Levi Woodbury }  
Sec. of Treas.



Treasury Department—  
January 18. 1860.

Sir

The box containing dies for the Branch  
Mint at N. Orleans transmitted by you has been received  
and forwarded as requested.

Very Respectfully  
Yours Akat. Saw  
James Woodbury  
Sec. of the Treasury

P. W. M. Patterson.  
Director of the Mint  
Philadelphia.



Mint of the United States,  
Jan. 15, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send, by this Mail,  
to your address, a box containing dies for the  
Branch Mint at New Orleans, - and to request  
that you will ~~remove the outer envelope~~  
~~from~~ forward it under your frank, as di-  
rected upon the inner envelope.

Very respectfully,

R. M. P.

D.V.

To/ Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Sec. of Treasury.

P. S. My Annual report is delayed in consequence  
of my not having yet received the last reports  
from Charlotte & New Orleans.



Mint of the United States,  
Jan. 15. 1840.

Sir,

I send, by the present mail, to the Secretary of the Treasury, to be forwarded to you under his pack, a box containing one pair of dime, and one pair of half-dime dies, for the present year. We shall continue to forward others, in the same way, until your Mint is fully supplied. As the loss of <sup>any</sup> these dies might be followed by might be a serious evil, I beg you to be particular in acknowledging their receipt. ~~Let me refer you call your attention to my letter of June 4, 1839, to your predecessor, will show you what~~ ~~the disposition is to be made of the dies of 1839 last year's dies.~~

I will thank you call the ~~particular~~ <sup>particular</sup> attention, ~~and~~ that of your coin to the ~~following~~ <sup>following</sup> to the exact measure which has been adopted for the diameters of the coins. They are given as follows, in thousandths of the inch:

Diameter of the	Half-dime	$\frac{860}{1000}$	$\frac{860}{1000}$ of an inch
"	"	Dime	$\frac{760}{1000}$ — — — — —
"	"	Quarter-dollar	$\frac{950}{1000}$ — — — — —
"	"	Half-dollar	$\frac{1200}{1000}$ — — — — —
"	"	Quarter-eagle	$\frac{700}{1000}$ — — — — —
"	"	Half-eagle	$\frac{850}{1000}$ — — — — —

The allowance which should be made for the



expansion of the collars in hardening is for  
 the Half dollar —  $\frac{5}{1000}$  of an inch  
 " Quarter dollar  $\frac{3}{1000}$  " " "

" Half-eagle  $\frac{3}{1000}$  " " "  
 that is, the collars, <sup>should be,</sup> ~~are~~ turned ~~thus~~ much smaller  
 than their proper diameter, and are made right  
 by the expansion of the metal in hardening.  
 The allowance for the ~~above~~ half-dime, dime, and  
 quarter-eagle collar is too small for exact meas-  
 urement.

R.M.T.

To,  
 Gen. M. Kennedy, Esq.  
 Capt. Br. Mint,  
 New Orleans.



(Copy)

Dear Sir,

The amount of Silver Bullion deposited  
in the Mint since 16 November, is as follows -

Gross Weight 24,562.39. Standard 24,292.17  
value 28,267.09 Dollars

Gold Bullion  
Gross Weight 214.55 - Standard 201.461, and  
value 3748 <sup>23</sup>/<sub>100</sub> Dollars.

I delivered to the Melters & Refiners since the  
commencement of operations \$46,527.74, and have  
received from him in Ingots 41,096.89 ounces of silver.

To the Comer 47,626.19 ounces, and from him  
have received in Silver coin 11,111.87 oz

I have delivered to him in gold 2730.31 oz &  
received 1262.58 oz.

The coin received have been as follows

50,000 dimes

16,000 half dollars & 9396 quarter Eagles.

Up to 31 December I have paid Comptroller  
of Silver deposits amounting to \$8694.71  
and of gold \$231.95

The Melters & Refiners and Comer  
have both delivered to me the contents of their  
Vaults which have been weighed and returned to



them. As soon as the allowance for Wastage  
has been settled the accounts can be closed for  
the quarter -

I am yours sincerely  
Signed H. B. Cammack

Dear Sir

U. S. Br. Mstr

Jan. 11. 1840



Mont Vt.  
Jan. 11/40.

Sir,  
I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ult., with the subjoined copy of a letter to you from Dr. Hart on the subject of his Assay Balance. I have consulted ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> ~~Dr. Hart~~ <sup>Dr. Hart</sup> and Mr. Santos, <sup>as to</sup> Dr. Hart's difficulties, and he thinks that the faults complained of <sup>may</sup> be very easily remedied. He recommends the following measures.

1st. If the agate has been damaged by any means, let it be pushed down to its place by the thumb.

2. Let the agate and knife-edge be wiped perfectly clean and dry, and no oil be used on any account. <sup>used to range</sup>

3. If the <sup>Ys</sup> ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> the knife-edge do not rise high enough, or rise too high, this defect can be ~~very~~ <sup>very</sup> easily remedied by raising or lowering a roller which will be found under the marble slab, and which is held in its place by a pivot passing through a slot and fastened by a nut, so as be readily adjusted. <sup>The Ys must be placed as high as possible, so as not to raise the beam.</sup>

4. If the ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~very~~ <sup>very</sup> seats are adjusted by screws in the bottoms of the stems attached to them. They must be so regulated as, when ~~seats~~ raised, first to



bring the beam horizontal, without raising the stirrups.

~~Mr. Saxton is of opinion that there is no person in any thing more with the knife edge.~~  
I am sure that Mr. Tyler would be

perfectly competent to make the adjustments, under these instructions. Indeed I believe that Dr. Hart could make them himself, though he does not claim any acquaintance with practical mechanics.

If, however, you fail in your attempts to put the beam in perfect order, I will beg you to let me know, and I will then send you a <sup>French</sup> beam, now belonging to our Assayer, ~~I think to be from~~ ~~most from~~ ~~France~~ and, which you can use until your balance can be adjusted here. It is proper to mention, however, that Mr. Eckfeldt's <sup>Assay</sup> balance would cost you about \$152.38, the price which he gave for it himself.

No one here could make a new assay-balance, worthy of reliance, except Mr. Saxton, and he is so much engaged that he ~~either~~ could not undertake the task, at all, or would require for a long time to come.

P. M. P.

W. J. Mr. M. Kennedy, Esq.  
Sup. Br. Mint,  
New Orleans.



U. S. Branch Mint

New Orleans, January 8<sup>th</sup> 1840

Sir,

I herewith enclose a copy of the Profit & Loss account of this Mint, which will explain how the balance of \$3741.94 has been found. On that subject you will also receive an extract from a letter to our Treasurer by Dr. Hort.

The mints made during Dr. Reddell's absence were not worked up into coins until after his arrival. He, as you direct, recognizes the transaction as his own act and done under his responsibility. The coins delivered by the minter were from strips found in the late Coining Vault. Mr. Cammack says in a note to me, that "a greater familiarity with the duties of the office will prevent any future irregularity." I will send you in a day or two the coins reserved since the Coinage has been resumed, and as soon thereafter as it can be completed, the Statement referred to in one of your late communications -

Very respectfully

J. A. S. S. S.

J. A. S. S. S.

R. M. Patterson Esq.



Extract -

" In reference to the subject to which you invited my  
" attention yesterday, I would remark that the amount  
" of about \$3000 which appears in the Profit &  
" Loss account, has been accumulating from the  
" commencement of operations in this Branch Mint.  
" In 1838, the deposits were chiefly of Mexican  
" Silver Bullion cont.<sup>g</sup> gold, requiring separation  
" and involving heavy charges. On the very  
" first deposit made by Messrs Legrand in  
" March 1838, the charge for separation alone  
" exceeded \$800. - On reference to the Act of  
" the 18<sup>th</sup> Sept of 1837 it will appear that these  
" charges are provided for by law. " That the  
" rate of those charges shall be fixed from  
" time to time by the Director with the concur-  
" =ence of the Secretary of the Treasury &c  
" and that the amount received from those charges  
" shall be accounted for, & appropriated for  
" defraying the contingent expenses of the  
" Mint."



Mount W. L.  
Jan 7 / 40.

Sir,

I received yesterday your letter of the 17th ult., and I had enclosed a letter respecting the estimates for this year, and I had enclosed a <sup>copy of</sup> letter, <sup>in consequence</sup>, to the Secretary of the Treasury. I am confident that, with a careful regard to economy, you can keep your expenses below the estimate as I have presented it. Indeed both duty and policy require that this should be done. We have, at this Mount, between fifty and sixty workmen, and our estimate for their pay, for the present year, is but \$23,000, — <sup>plus for the year, \$22,000.</sup> Our estimate for incidental and Contingent expenses, including postage of gold and silver, fuel, materials, stationery, water-rail and taxes, is \$15,000, — <sup>plus for Dr. West's, for your agent, was</sup> \$25,100. Our postage for the past year, was but about \$3000, or a cringe of \$3,000,000, — Dr. West estimates yours at \$5,000. I need not tell you that such comparisons would be greatly to the disadvantage of your institution.



I think you justified, by the law  
of necessity, in employing door-keepers  
and guards, — but the law because  
there seem to have been over looked  
in the law of Congress. But it is not  
so with the northern, which the number  
of ~~house~~ <sup>whom</sup> it is your duty to keep down  
to twenty, whatever may be the con-  
sequent inconvenience and delay.

At your request, I have applied  
to the Secretary of the Treasury for a  
statement of the expenditures made to your  
Minist.

P. M. P.

(Inclosing copy of my letter to Sec.  
of Treasury, of this day.)

To  
Mr. M. Kennedy, Esq.  
Dep. Br. Agent,  
New Orleans



Chas. M. S.  
Jan 7 / 44.

Sir, In a letter from, the Joseph M.  
Kennedy Esq., Superintendent of the  
New Orleans Mint, dated the 17th ult.,  
he asks me "to obtain for him, from the  
proper Department, a statement of the  
different remittances made to the New  
Orleans Mint since it first went  
into operation, with the amounts ap-  
propriated to each particular branch."

Although Mr. Kennedy should  
have made this application to the De-  
partment directly, I must now take  
the liberty of making it for him,  
to prevent delay, as it may be need-  
ful for the statement of his annual  
accounts.

P. M. P.

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.



Mint of the U. S.  
Jan 21. '40.

Sir,

I send herewith a statement of  
my account, for the last quarter, my hands  
belonging to your Branch Mint, together  
with necessary vouchers. On the 31st ult.,  
~~there was a balance to your credit of \$~~  
~~912 34~~

J. V. M. P.

To  
W. C. Cammack, Esq.,  
Treas. Br. Mint,  
New Orleans. }



Mint of the United States,  
Jan. 3<sup>d</sup>, 1840

Sir,

I have duly received your letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> ult., enclosing the bond and oath of office of Dr. Riddick. These I have transmitted, "approved", to the Secretary of the Treasury.

If I understand the case of Mr. Parker, it is that there was a balance of \$50 ~~due him~~ ~~due him~~ ~~for the 3<sup>d</sup> quarter of 1839~~ due him, & not drawn, at the close of the 2<sup>d</sup> quarter of 1839; although the returns for that quarter showed his salary paid: that, ~~by mistake~~, this balance was subsequently paid to Mr. Parker; but, by mistake, was <sup>entered</sup> ~~charged~~ in the returns for the 3<sup>d</sup> quarter, as so much advanced to <sup>him</sup> Mr. R., and for which, of course, Mr. Forstall received a ~~first~~ <sup>second</sup> credit. Now if there is sufficient evidence for believing this to be the case, Mr. Parker should receive the full amount of his



3d quarter's salary, and the mistake in  
Mr. Postall's account be rectified by  
debiting him with the amt. falsely cred-  
ited.

C. B. M. P.

To /  
Jos. M. Kennedy Esq., }  
Supt. Br. Mint. }  
New Orleans. }



Mint of the N. D.  
Jan. 2d. 1839.  
1840.

Sir,

The late Mr. Tyler ordered, from Mr. Marshall, a machinist of this City, a lathe which is now at your Mint, and of which the cost, including castings for a slide-rest, was \$140.- He long ago applied to me for the payment of his bill, but I informed him that it could not be paid without an order from you. He accordingly wrote, about the 16th Novr, to Mr. Philo. B. Tyler, to touch his accounts and procure the desired order. He has just called to say that he has rec'd no answer to his application, & he has prayed me to write to you upon the subject.

With great respect,  
your faithful servt.,  
R. M. S.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq., }  
Sub<sup>r</sup> B. P. Mint,  
New Orleans.



Minst of the United States,  
Jan 2, 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you,  
by the present mail, a box containing one  
pair of Eagle dies, - directed on the inner envelope  
to the Capt. of New Orleans Pr. Mint, to be  
forwarded as ordered under your frank.

Very respectfully,  
your faithful servant,  
R. M. P.

Done

De!  
Am. Lion Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury. }



U.S. Branch Mint  
N. Orleans, July 1. 1840

Sir;

I have the honor to enclose our statement  
for June -

Your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> ult. has been recd.  
I will reply to it to-morrow.

Very respectfully

J. A. Ober, Secy.

J. M. McKim

Sup't

P. M. Patterson Esq.

Director of the Mint of the U. S.

Philad.



Statement of the Deposits and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of  
June 1840

Kind of Deposits	Deposits					Coinage			
	Gross Weight	Standard	Value before deductions	Value after deductions	Total Value before deductions	Denomination	Number of pieces	Value	Total Value
	minting	Weight						Dollars &c	Dollars &c
Gold:									
No deposits of Gold have been received this month									
Silver:									
Foreign Bullion, say	639 65	764 29	887 55	887 06		Half Dollars, say	83,600	41,800 00	
Foreign Coins	756 58 85	754 22 67	877 64 41	877 64 41		Quarter Dollars,	120,800	30,200 00	
						Dimes	190,000	19,000 00	
					88,653 76		8,921,200		91,000 00
					Total deposits		Total Coinage		91,000 00
					88,653 76				

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans  
Treasurer's Office, June 30<sup>th</sup> 1840  
H. C. Sumner  
Treasurer



(Copy)

To The United States, in account with Horace C. Cammack, Treasurer of the Branch Mint, New Orleans, his account of the ordinary receipts and expenditures, for the quarter ending the 30<sup>th</sup>. of June 1840.

1840		Dollars	cts	1840		Dollars	cts
June 30	To amount paid from the 1 <sup>st</sup> of April to this date, inclusive, for the incidental & contingent expenses & repairs of the Mint, as per statement and Warrants marked D 1.	5786	85	March 31	By Balance remaining in the Treasurer's hands as per account rendered to this date	6295	70
" "	" " Amount paid from the 1 <sup>st</sup> of April to this date, inclusive, for the Buildings & Machinery of the Mint, as per statement and Warrants marked D 2.	542	75	June 10	" " Amount of Draft of the Treasurer of the U. States No 4675. for the salaries of the Officers and Clerks, and Wages of Laborers for the quarter ending 30 <sup>th</sup> June	6780	00
" "	" " Amount paid for Wages of Laborers employed in the Mint, as per statement and Warrants marked D 3.	4927	12	" 30	" " Balance to new account	1356	02
" "	" " Amount paid for the salaries of the Officers & Clerks of the Mint, for the quarter ending this day, as per statement and Warrant marked D 4.	3225	00				
		14431	72			14431	72

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans  
Treasurer's Office, June 30<sup>th</sup> 1840

H. Cammack

Treasurer.



Copy.

To The United States, for the Building & Machinery  
of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, as paid to the  
following persons, from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June  
1840, inclusive, in pursuance of warrants of the Super-  
intendent of the Mint, dated & numbered, viz:

1840.	No.	To	John Monro	for completing repairs at New Orleans	146 25
April 14	67				
June 19	99		Peter Kelly	for material work at annual inspection	97 -
"	100		J. D. McCabe	do do do do	116 -
30	110		Lucas E. Cook	for work for do do	69 75
"	111		James Pearson	do for do do	113 75

\$ 542 75

Branch Mint United States  
New Orleans, Treasurer's Office,  
June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1840.

H. C. Hamner  
Treasurer

1,918.94  
780.12  
542.75  
3,451.81

These are the accounts referred to in my letter to you  
of yesterday.

14 June 1840

H. C. B.



From  
 M. C. Cammach, Esq.  
 Treasr. Br. Mint,  
 New Orleans.  
 Dec. 14.  
 Recd. " 27. 1839.

Copy.

Dr. The United States, for the Building & Machining of  
 the Branch Mint at New Orleans, as paid to the fol-  
 lowing persons from the 1<sup>st</sup> October to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1839  
 inclusive, in pursuance of Warrants of the Superintendent  
 of the, marginal date and number, viz;

1839	No. of Warrs		No. of Bills	Dolls	Cts
Dec 7	234	To George Fox for carpenter's work &c	1	378	-
18	242	J. J. Ferguson " work done per bill	2	189	-
31	246	Mr. Logan " hanging bells	3	72	-
	255	Leads &c " Laundry for Coining dept	4	20	48
	256	J. H. H. " Paper hanging &c	5	119	-
	257	H. Schuchert " do do	6	43	50
	259	G. H. H. " Lumber & Carpenter's work	7	45	-
	260	J. Prager " Lumber	8	31	71
	261	E. Blane " 3000 Bricks	9	39	-
	262	B. Baggett " Painting Machinery &c	10	242	25
	265	W. H. H. " repairing roofs &c	11	71	75
	268	Allen & Hill " locks for the vault &c	12	326	-
	272	Brig. J. Fox " Carpenter's work	13	125	-
	275	B. Baggett " Painting Office &c	14	211	25

\$1,913 94

Branch Mint of the United States,  
 New Orleans Treasury Office  
 31<sup>st</sup> December 1839.  
 M. C. Cammach  
 Treasurer

Branch Mint New Orleans.

Dr. R. M. Patterson  
 Director U. S. Mint  
 Philadelphia



Copy

Dr The United States for the Buildings & Machinery  
of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, as paid to the  
following persons, from 1<sup>st</sup> January to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1840,  
inclusive, in pursuance of Warrants of the Superintendent,  
of the Marshal date and number, viz;

1840	No. of Warrant	No. of Bills	Dolls	Cts
Aug 28	6	To John Ferguson for Carpenter's work &c	1	166 50
Sept 5	12	Strom Rankin " 1 Mantle piece & grate } renovating &c	2	142 37
" 13	"	P. D. McCabe " masonry work &c	3	148 -
" 24	"	John Munro " repairing 9 <sup>th</sup> door press	4	107 25
" 25	"	Jam. Stitt " refitting fly wheel &c	5	99 -
March 7	43	John Munro " refitting 9 <sup>th</sup> door press	6	97 50
" 44	"	Jam. Stitt " do do do	7	90 -
" 47	"	John B. Walsh " bill of solder &c	8	129 50
				\$ 980 12

Branch Mint of the United States  
New Orleans, Treasurer's Office  
March 31<sup>st</sup> 1840.  
H. C. Macmillan  
Treasurer



Wm. W. L.

June 30 / 40.

Sir I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th inst. — The explanation with regard to Leitch's discharge from Dr. Riddell's department is satisfactory. No officer could permit an insubordinate intimation to be made against him, and Dr. Riddell's conduct seems to have him should great forbearance. — In my letter of the 27th, I ask some questions whether the discharge of Leitch had any connexion with a desire to make place for Dr. Riddell's brother. It may be proper now to say, that the information doubt expressed in this question, and which now appears to be unfounded, was not suggested by any insinuation made from Mr. Thomas.

A correspondence which I have had with the Secretary of the Treasury shows that great discontent is felt at Washington at some of the amount, and at some of the items, of expenditure, under the appropriations for establishing your Mint. Among the charges, those for out-houses are very great. I am asked what these out-houses are, but am unable to answer. Mounts & also play a large part in the expenditures, and so much so as to have attracted particular attention. The question of



the buildings and the paving & furniture  
did not fall under my control, and  
I have therefore been unable to give satis-  
factory answers to the Secretary's questions.  
I presume therefore that you will be called  
upon, though but little of the extraordinary  
complaints of our town occurred under your  
regime.

R. M. P.

A

To  
Hon. Mr. Kennedy, Esq.  
Dep. Br. Agent,  
New Orleans.



New Orleans June 28. 1840.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Kennedy showed me yesterday a letter received from you, written in consequence of an exaggerated report of an assault on John Mabarty having indirectly reached your ears. The particulars - Mabarty being at the time employed in the Mint, was brutally assaulted with clubs, bowie knives &c, and that the mint had stopped in consequence of the offending party's having been bound over to court. I quote from memory, and may be partly incorrect.

In consequence of the inquiries you make of Mr. Kennedy, I deem it my duty, though unasked, to lay the leading circumstances before you.

I apprised you in my last, that in consequence of his persevering importunity, and from charitable considerations, I had admitted Mabarty to a laborer's station in my department. He became deeply disaffected because I found him unworthy of promotion, and implicated himself and others in plots to injure me. Having been a student of our Medical College, I was loath to discharge him, but earnestly and repeatedly advised him to find some other employment. He was well aware I had lost confidence in him. On the 26th of May at noon, refusing to file a law, he quit work, informing me that he no longer considered himself as belonging to my department.



He then set about publishing in the community the vilest slanders he could invent. He made statements to my secretaries, which determined me to expose my doublet to inspection. He then caused the publication in the Sun Newspaper which you have seen, heading it "Rather suspicious about Rotting & Refining." That his conduct was insupportable and aggravating in the extreme, with appeal by the following written statement of Dr. James Jones, one of my secretaries - a gentleman of high standing. Immediately after leaving the mint, Macarty called on him and assured him


"that there was one would be proved to be great losses, by reason of the incompetency and dishonesty of the better one Refiner - that he never made a melt without losing several per cent of metal; and that he had appropriated to his private use and sold at a premium, a large amount of the coin and bullion intrusted to his charge. In fine that said Kiddell was a defaulter, a thief incompetent and a coward; - that he had challenged said Kiddell to his face and made his ears hang like a dog's; And that it was his intention to use every means in his power, to disgrace and drive him out of New Orleans. That it was a fact well known to him that said Kiddell had stolen asked for, containing a valuable amount of silver belonging to the estate of Maxwell; and that he also knew that said Kiddell had killed his wife by bad treatment, and attempted

to defraud and cheat his minor brother out of his property."

It is perhaps to be regretted, but public opinion in this climate, as you are doubtless aware, sanctions, and under similar circumstances requires, a resort to personal chastisement for slanders like the above, so base, so palpable, and so utterly unfounded in truth. Mr. Garty was no longer connected with the mint. The Medical College of whose faculty I am a member, had conferred the degree of Doctor of Medicine upon him, which alone gave him a claim to respectability. My friends, among whom were Messrs Kennedy and Cammack, warmly urged me to chastise him; and thus I did on the piazza of his boarding house, having in company with me two individuals who took no part, to mark that I neither used nor displayed any weapon more formidable than my flat hand. This was on the first of June. When I had thus rebuked the slanderer, my conduct was cordially approved by Messrs Kennedy, Cammack, Hart and all who knew the circumstances and the tone of public feeling. It is true, as Macarty's complaint I have since been convicted in the Criminal Court of assault & battery, and am defendant in a civil action for damages based on the same. In the civil action a recantation for the slander will be allowed; and mitigating testimony will be received in the Criminal Court, where the judge declines pronouncing sentence until after the civil action



shall have been decided, — say perhaps two years  
hence. The Judge of the Criminal Court assures me, that  
as my presence is indispensable at the mint, if  
after he shall have heard the mitigating testimony  
concerning the slander which led to the assault, he  
shall then find it his duty to visit me with a severe  
sentence, he will do so by a fine instead of imprisonment.

  
No. 12  
Dr. R. M. Patterson  
Director of the Mint  
Philadelphia

in a conspiracy. If under the  
excitement of deep injury, I transgressed  
the strict law of the land, I had myself  
unavoidable to that law, and shall atone  
it handsomely.

With respect yours  
Wm. Lloyd Garrison

J. L. Russell

Dr. R. M. Patterson

In conclusion then, let me remind you that the  
assault did not take place in the mint; — that the  
party at the time was disconnected from the mint. — that  
my provocation was beyond human endurance, — that  
my friends and impartial persons sustain me in what,  
under the excitement of the moment I did, — and  
that great allowance must be made in estimating  
a summary act, required by the tone of public feeling



New Orleans June 28. 1846

My dear Sir

I received yesterday a letter from my friend Mr. Gliddell who was at Washington City, in which he says the Comptroller had informed him that the delay in settling my accounts proceeded solely from the irregularities in the accounts of Mr. Forstall, the late Treasurer, but that it will very soon be regulated.

I feel much relieved by this information and hasten to advise you of it.

I can close this quarter's accounts without any more funds by leaving some of the claims over for awhile, and until the quarterly accounts I will get Mr. Kennedy to send a requisition for more funds.

Our Comago for this month will be less, in amount, than we anticipated owing to the fact that we have done nothing yet in Gold.

I am, with great respect

Your faithful servant

J. H. Hammond

To Mr. Patterson Esq



New Orleans June 28th/1840

My dear Sir

I wrote to you this morning and have since thought it proper to communicate to you extract from a letter which I have received from Mr Eldell dated at Washington - it is as follows

"I find that strong efforts have been made to prejudice  
"you here, but that no effect has been produced,  
"except upon our Senators especially Moulton.  
"I am satisfied from what fell from Moulton,  
"that the chief source of the representations which  
"by the by I believe are exclusively confined  
"to the charge that you are a violent 'ultra' &  
"a bitter enemy of the administration made  
"against you is some person or persons about  
"the mint. I do not anticipate any difficulty."

This secret accuser has done me great injustice because he has stated that which is not true - and I advise you of this to put you on your guard against any reports that may reach you, and to enable you to answer any enquiries that may be made from Washington.

It seems that some restless spirit haunts the walls of this mint, which, while it be not layed, will never permit peace and harmony to exist within them.

I am, with great respect,

Your faithful & obd. servant

J. C. Hammond

To

Dr R. M. Patterson



The division of the

$$2.5 : 120 :: 20 : 3$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 7.5 \overline{) 120.0} (16 \\ \underline{45} \\ 75 \\ \underline{60} \\ 150 \\ \underline{120} \\ 30 \end{array}$$

1200

$$128 \overline{) 7.58}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 1.35 \overline{) 300.00} (236 \\ \underline{260} \\ 400 \\ \underline{405} \\ 550 \end{array}$$

$$3 : 2.5 :: 120 : x$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \overline{) 300.0} \\ \underline{100} \\ 200 \\ \underline{150} \\ 50 \end{array}$$

$$2.1 \overline{) 300.00} (142$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 1.5 \overline{) 300.00} (193 \\ \underline{150} \\ 150 \\ \underline{145} \\ 50 \end{array}$$



U. S. Branch Mint  
N. Orleans, June 25, 1841

Sir;

It is matter of regret to me that the idea of the possibility of my neglecting to lay before you any information concerning us that you ought to possess, should ever have been admitted into your mind. It may sometimes have happened to me to be a little tardy, but it has generally been under circumstances, which would, I think, had you been acquainted with them, have induced you to hold me excusable. My letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. in which I represented the affair between Dr. Riddell and Abel Carthy, must have reached you very shortly after you had written yours of the 16<sup>th</sup> which I rec<sup>d</sup> yesterday. The operation of the Mint have not been suspended.

The trial took place on the day stated in my last. The jury found a verdict of guilty against the three, but recommended Nixon to the clemency of the Judge, who sentenced him to pay costs, and nothing more. Dr. Riddell and his brother have given bond for their appearance and to hear their sentence, after the termination



of the civil suit which I have already had occasion  
to mention to you.

I am extremely anxious to hear from you  
in relation to the gold. It was my intention at  
first, without waiting for that, to have called the  
Officers of the Mint together, and upon suggestions  
made by any of them during the operation, to  
have tried the possibility of working enough of  
it to pay off our gold debt which was small.  
I have been induced for two reasons to change  
my mind and stand entirely by your decision.

First, Upon inquiry at the Treas-  
-urer's office I learned that all our gold  
certificates were held by the Bank of Amer-  
-ica, of which Mr. Cammack is a Director  
and was informed by that gentleman that she  
was in no hurry for payment. We had then no  
immediate use for gold coins.

Secondly, I found, that there  
would have been a total absence of that  
spirit in which I had hoped our experiments  
would have been conducted. The matter had  
already been left to you, by whose decision alone  
I was satisfied that both parties would be

content to abide, and I was unwilling to contri-  
-bute, unnecessarily, on either side, to an aggravation  
of feelings which, for the sake of the Mint  
should never have arisen, and were growing  
stronger every day. I hope you will think  
I have acted prudently. Mr. Riddell  
insists as strongly as ever that he can work  
the gold, and complains of not having had  
an opportunity of establishing the fact, and  
relieving his official credit. I have told  
him that he is not both Melter and Coiner,  
that it is his business to deliver such gold as  
Mr. Tyler can coin according to the instructions  
and that should you not furnish me with  
a test by which I can myself judge of the  
toughness and malleability of his ingots,  
we will send you one either from the last  
or any other melt returned by the Coiner and  
unfit for coinage, and that thus he will have  
ample justice. I am with great respect

Sir

Your obed<sup>t</sup> servant  
J. M. McKim

Sept 16

P.S. Our last gold

Depositor has requested the



return of his deposit, and I have sanctioned  
it -

I cannot disguise the fact that we do  
not get along as harmoniously as formerly -  
Our Mint appears to be fated to breed / within  
great interruption / within its walls, feeling &  
productive of any thing but tranquility and  
peace - Should the settlement of this  
gold question not bring with it such a  
change as will make my office less  
disagreeable to me, than for some time, it  
has been, much as I would regret to dissolve  
official relations with one by whom I have  
uniformly been so kindly treated, my only  
alternative will be to resign it.



Mint of the United States.

June 27th, 1840.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., explaining the circumstances of Ernst's discharge. It is a satisfaction to find that they correspond exactly with what I had supposed to be the true story, and had so stated in my letter making the inquiry. After fact, I must doubt the propriety of Ernst's <sup>dismission</sup> ~~discharge~~. — I have had ~~some~~ doubts as to Levis, but I suppose your ~~past~~ promised letter will remove them. Had not his <sup>discharge</sup> ~~removal~~ some connection with a desire to make room for <sup>Dr. Riddell's</sup> ~~another~~, and has it not also been the immediate cause of the defect in the gold ingots?

I have received from the Secretary of the Treasury, a copy of a letter to him, of the 13th inst., from Dr. Riddell, on the subject of these gold ingots. It is a most extraordinary thing that a doubt



should exist as to the fact whether these ingots <sup>are</sup> sufficiently ductile for the operations of the Coiner. We cannot understand, here, how a dispute can exist on so plain a matter. These ~~are~~ ingots may be possible to roll down ingots, and yet they may not be possessed of that degree of ductility which may be fairly required by the Coiner. If they are defective, I think it very improbable, as I have already told you, that the defect arises from the annealing; which, on the other hand, it is by no means an easy matter to make ductile alloys of gold. The process followed by us, was explained in a communication formerly made sent to your client, and which has, I presume, come into the hands of Dr. Riddell, but I will give you a general view of it, as ~~they~~ <sup>my</sup> doing so may enable you to form a better judgment as to the merits of this dispute.

You have gold, either fine or of high quality, and which may be perfectly ductile, and you are to bring it down to standard by adding copper. Now it is a general rule that this cannot

be done slowly, without making a brittle mass. You have, therefore, to prepare an alloy, — called toughened gold, — made by adding to gold an ~~amount~~ <sup>quantity</sup> of copper, and then melting it down, with successive doses of nitre, so as to remove portions of the copper and other oxidable metals, and produce a mass, which will ring in firmness, but which is lost at about 700 to 750. This alloy is hard and rings like bell metal, — the ringing being the test of goodness used at the obit. The toughening is then abraded, and the proper proportion melted down with the fine gold, to make the standard metal required.

Now if Dr. Riddell has <sup>simply</sup> failed in making ductile standard ingots, there ought not, considering his want of experience, to be any great astonishment expressed, or any great blame ~~to be~~ attached to him. (The difficulty <sup>could have</sup> ~~could have~~ been removed by greater care, or, if the true process was not known to him, by asking information from this client. I would not, for a moment, think of imputing an offence, founded in the circumstances of Dr. Riddell, on such a complaint as this. But, if the ingots are really unfit for the Coiner,



and Dr. Riddell refused to charge them,  
and insists that the Crime is not compe-  
tent to judge of them, that he must leave  
the blame <sup>simply you can judge of this</sup> ~~matter~~. If, however, you have a <sup>positive</sup> ~~positive~~ <sup>fact</sup> ~~fact~~ <sup>to do so</sup>,  
the Crime is to blame. Perhaps, <sup>may</sup> ~~perhaps~~, after all,  
the best way to settle this point <sup>may</sup> ~~is~~ to  
send an ingot to us, that has been re-  
fused by the Crime and approved by the ~~Crime~~.

In my view of Dr. Riddell's case,  
the most feature in it is the outrage  
committed on McCarthy. ~~When~~ I ~~com-~~  
sider this affair was first brought to my atten-  
tion, - perhaps somewhat exaggerated, - it  
had the effect of changing my own opinion  
of Dr. Riddell's character. I deemed it  
my duty to lay the point the case to the  
government, and, in doing so, also mentioned  
the charge as to the ingots, on which, however,  
I do not place <sup>any</sup> ~~the same~~ <sup>great</sup> force, unless it  
may be shown that the ingots being bad,  
he has refused to amend them.

I have no objection to your showing this  
letter to Dr. Riddell.

Wm. M. Kennedy, Esq.  
Sup. Br. Court.  
New Orleans.

P. M. P.



Treasury Department  
June 27. 1840.

Sir,

I transmit herewith, for your examination a statement of the expenditures by Mr. Forstall and Mr. Gammon out of the appropriations made for the Building and Machinery for the Branch Mint at N. Orleans. These accounts having been settled by the proper accounting officers of the Department and not in this office, are now, for the first time, brought to my notice.

I will thank you to inform me whether the outhouses, which have cost very large sums were built under your direction or with your sanction, and if not, by whose direction they were erected and of what they consist.

There are, also, some heavy charges for furniture - Marble Mantels &c. I will thank you to state whether these expenditures were authorized by you - and whether all or how many officers of the Mint reside in the buildings.

J. R. M. Patterson  
Supt. of Mint Philad<sup>a</sup>

Very Respectfully

Saml Woodbury  
Secy of the Treasury.



U. S. Branch Mount  
New Orleans, June 24 1840

Sir,

In addition to the criminal prosecution which has been commenced against Dr. Riddell by Mac. Carthy, the latter has also instituted a civil suit against him, in which he lays his damages at \$5,000. The Court being on the eve of adjourning until November next, this civil suit cannot be tried for seven or eight months. Should it then be taken to the Supreme Court, more than twelve months must elapse before it can be finally passed upon. The trial of the Criminal case is fixed for tomorrow, but the Judge has signified his determination, should Dr. Riddell be convicted, not to pass sentence upon him until after the judgment will have been rendered in the action for damages.

In my letter to you in which I mentioned the difficulty between Dr. R. and Mac. Carthy, fearing that it might lead to serious interruptions of our operations, I stated



that I would immediately acquaint you with the  
result of the trial for Assault & Battery. It is  
therefore proper, that I should now let you know  
that according to the present aspect of the matter  
its effect upon our Mint / if any it should have /  
will in all probability be remote.

I am very respectfully

Sir,

Your obed<sup>t</sup> Servant

R. M. Patterson Esq<sup>r</sup> J. McKim  
Director of the Mint

P.S. Allow me to correct an error - The Melt,  
which led to the dismissal of Devick from the  
Melting Department, was of Silver and not gold.



Treasury Department  
June 24. 1840.

Sir

I transmit enclosed a copy of a  
letter received from D. Riddell the Melter & Refiner  
at the Branch Mint at N. Orleans to which I invite  
your attention -

D. Riddell has been called on by the  
Department for explanation of the charges &c in the  
former communications.

Very Resp<sup>y</sup>  
Yours Obed. Serv<sup>t</sup>

Sam<sup>l</sup> Woodbury  
Sec. of the Treasury.

D. R. W. Patterson  
Philadelphia.



(etc. etc.)  
(Copy)

Chief Office Branch Mint

New Orleans June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1840

To Joseph M. Kennedy Esq.  
Capt. U.S. B. Mint

Dear Sir

In answer to your letter of Saturday last, I am  
sorry to say that the gold ingots, will not work in the  
ordinary way. At the time of receiving the ingots I was  
informed by the M & R. that they had been annealed &  
hammered, and afterwards annealed & pickled by himself,  
and that they were ready for rolling, upon this authority  
I thought I would roll some of them without first annealing  
them myself, but in attempting to straighten them from the  
crooks they had received in hammering, one ingot <sup>was</sup>  
accidentally broken, which led me to suppose the others  
were equally brittle, I then tried them by striking across  
the corner of the anvil, and some of them broke with almost  
the brittleness of glass. I then took 5 ingots indiscrimin-  
ately from the lot, and passed them 6 times through the  
rolls giving them one 8<sup>th</sup> of a turn of the keys at each time  
stretching them in length about 2 inches in all, at the very  
first time passing them through, the cracks could be seen  
very plain, which continued opening wider untill the 6<sup>th</sup>  
time, when they had not lengthened more than 2 inches  
notwithstanding the Director informed that they should be



successively rolled to the length of 2 feet 4 or 5 inches, before  
annealing the second time) four or five more were then  
rolled in your presence, with the same results, after which  
I received your note above mentioned. Not feeling satisfied  
to report upon them without trying some of my own an-  
nealing, I stated the same to you, and received in answer  
your request to make further trial. I then took 3 ingots,  
and marked them Nos 1, 2 & 3 which I annealed and  
rolled as follows, No 1 not hammered annealed at nearly  
red - dipped in pickle, passed 11 times through the rolls,  
going in all half a ton of the lead, and drawing about  
2 inches in length - cracked on the surface - annealed again  
at the same heat pickled. Rolled 4 times through, drawn  
1 inch cracked too bad to finish. No 2 Hammered by Mr. G.  
No annealed at lowest red heat <sup>refused drawing as No 1</sup> pickled - rolled  
again 4 times drawn 1 inch cracked same as No 1.

No 3 Hammered by my foreman, annealed at cherry red, pick-  
led, and rolled same as No 2 annealed at the same heat  
as at first, pickled - rolled 4 times, cracked the same as No 1  
& 2 - rolled 6 times, cracked more at each time.

I then took 2 ingots, and rolled them to the usual  
length of 30 inches, at which length the cracks on the sides  
had nearly disappeared or drawn over each other, but the  
edges were quite rough. I then selected of the worst and  
the best of the four, and annealed them at a moderate  
heat then rolled them to the proper length for drawing,  
the worst is entirely unfit for coins, the best would be

subject to great ~~waste~~ waste in drawing, and if it  
could be drawn to the proper weight many of the pieces would  
be imperfect. I wish you to examine the pieces with which  
the experiments were made, and if convenient I should  
like you to witness some of the experiments, as above.  
If then you should request me to make as much of it as  
possible into coins, I will cheerfully do so notwithstanding  
the great waste which must necessarily occur.

Very Respectfully

Your Faithful Servant

Signed - P. B. Tyler

Comer.



Minister to the United States.  
Nov. 19 /40.

Sir, I feel it my duty to send you the enclosed copies of a correspondence regarding Dr. J. L. Riddell, the present Minister & Referee of the Branch Office at New Orleans. You will see from it that my own impression is as yet imperfect, yet it is sufficient to show convince me that the choice of Dr. Riddell was an unfortunate one, notwithstanding his character as a scientific man, and the strong recommendations in his favor. He has quarrelled <sup>and discharged</sup> with his workmen, he has lost the regard of his fellow-officers, and he is giving bad examples to the Corps, and does not seem able to make them better. Lastly comes the affair with one of his dismissed hands, - Mr. Carthy, - which has brought disgrace upon the Office, and exposed him, and two of his men whom he had with him, to a criminal trial.

You will, I presume, judge it proper to lay this matter before the President.

Wm. Lewis Woodbury  
Sec. of Treasury

P. M. P.  
D.



W. J. Branch Mnt.

New Orleans June 19. 1840

Sir,

I must apologize for the time that has intervened, between this letter and that of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. - Private affairs, of my own, requiring my undivided attention have made it longer than it should have been. I ~~was~~ hastened to give you the circumstances attending the discharge of Ernst, because he had made "accusations of a very grave character against Dr. Riddell" about which I was persuaded you wished to be soon satisfied -

Against Dr. Riddell ~~no~~ <sup>no</sup> ~~complaint~~ <sup>complaint</sup> has been made as an accusation or complaint. It is not surprising - I do not see how, under the facts of the case as reported to me by Dr. R. it could have been otherwise - Mr. Derrick has never been discharged from our Mint. He has been with the Comptroller ever since he left the Minting Department. Some time previous to that, Dr. Riddell had made an arrangement with Mr. Tyler, which he was to take



the first vacancy in his department - This he was  
 led to do for the following reason, in addition  
 to Mr. Leitch's having thru that he would  
 prefer working in that department - Leitch  
 complaints about his wages, and his threats to  
 leave, unless they were raised, were frequent.  
 He had been sometimes a little careless in  
 regard to "cutters" and had refused to become  
 responsible for deposits placed in his hands  
 to melt. On one occasion Dr. Riddell thought  
 the wages (after a melt of gold) somewhat  
 greater than it should have been, and mentioned  
 it to him. His reply was, that he would  
 be of that opinion too, if he did not think  
 "that Dr. Riddell knew what had become  
 of the gold". It was, in the words of the  
 Melter, Refiner, that "violent mismanagement  
 that forced him to say to Leitch that he  
 might consider himself dismissed - He  
 never said a word to me on the subject, I  
 could not, from good feelings towards him, but  
 Riddell had not then, at it worth  
 while to communicate to me, until after

I had rec'd. your letter of the 25th ult.  
 did so then, nearly as for himself  
 eyes, and when Mr. Leitch asked me  
 to take Leitch into his department after  
 left the other, the question was  
 had any complaints to make against  
 Leitch, his reply was in the negative.

Leitch was, in my opinion  
 no cause to complain - If that  
 "mismanagement" had been made known  
 to me at the time the words were  
 - very, it was uttered, I think it  
 not probable that his services  
 would have been dispensed with altogether.

I am with great respect, Sir,  
 Yr. obedt. Servt.  
 J. M. McKim

P.S. Mr. Leitch is

1 box cont. 25 lbs. of same, and 1 lb. of same dies  
 1 do - cont. 1 lb. of 2 dollar dies  
 1 do - cont. 1 lb. of 2 dollar and 1 lb. of 1 dollar dies  
 1 do - cont. 1 lb. of 1 dollar dies -



Minst. U. S.  
Dec 18/40.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst., giving me information, in an authentic form, which my late correspondence will have shown <sup>you</sup> that I was seeking with great anxiety. I do not hesitate to say that I most heartily disapprove of Dr. Riddell's conduct in the affair of Dr. Mc Carthy, and that I shall deem it my duty to represent it to the Department government. It is for the President to determine what course to take in the case, and it is ~~very~~ possible that it may not lead to the removal of the officer in question; but if it should, it will be of the greatest importance that no time should be lost in finding a successor, and I deem it right, therefore, to ask you to ~~let~~ <sup>advise me,</sup> ~~me~~ <sup>me</sup> ~~me~~, in confidence, if you know of any individual competent to fill the station. A practical acquaintance with the business is not to be expected, but an acquaintance with Chemistry is. I should think that any gentleman who has had a good ~~Chemical~~ <sup>Chemical</sup> education might soon become acquainted with the



<sup>penetrate</sup>  
~~shelter~~ ~~business~~ ~~knowledge~~ ~~superior~~ ~~messages~~  
Our friend Miller & Refiner here has no other  
ground to build upon, and he became, in a short  
time, a competent and <sup>effective</sup> ~~valuable~~ officer. I  
consider it of great importance that all  
persons to be attached to your Mint should  
be acclimated to the others, and this must,  
of course, be looked to if a new appointment  
is to be made.

<sup>both</sup>  
I am assured, by our old and by our  
present Coiner, that there is no difficulty  
whatever in the annealing of gold. There is  
not the same <sup>inconvenience</sup> ~~danger~~ of over-heating, which  
occurs in silver. If the gold ingots could  
be made to which you refer could not be rolled  
without cracking, the fault must have been in  
the preparation of the metal by the smelter, and  
not in the annealing by the Coiner. I should  
therefore it quite unnecessary to send a specimen  
ingot here; but, if the parties desire it, I  
do not object to this course.

Please to inform Mr. Cammish that I  
will write tomorrow, on the subject of his letter.

R. M. P.

Wm. M. Kennedy, Esq.  
Sup. Br. Mint  
St. Louis



Wm. M. J.  
Jan 16/50.

Sir,

I have received several papers to-day, of the 1st & 2d inst. sent, I presume, by yourself or Mr. Cammack, from your agent, and containing Mr. Cammack's certificate regarding Dr. Riddell's account as stated in the *Refiner*. This is new. But I am also informed, indirectly, through the correspondence of a gentleman not connected with the clinic, of an outrage subsequently committed, and in which Dr. Riddell and one of your medical students were parties. The story, as related, is that one of Dr. Riddell's men, Mr. Carthy, - having taken offense at his principal, had made complaints which gave rise to the investigation into Dr. Riddell's affairs; and that, in revenge for this conduct, Dr. Riddell, accompanied by his brother & sister, armed with clubs, daggers or Bowie knives, and had attacked and gone to Mr. Carthy's chamber, and beaten him severely. The end of the story is that Dr. Riddell, and his brother, and Mr. Carthy, had been



bound over to the criminal courts  
for this assault, and that the functions  
of the Court were suspended.

I hope that this shocking report is  
not true, or at least, that it is exag-  
gerated. It can hardly be possible  
that I should not have your <sup>representations</sup> report of  
the matter before this letter reaches you;  
but, in any event, I shall be most anxious  
to hear the truth, and to hear it from you.  
It is a case that deeply concerns you, for  
it involves the <sup>reputation</sup> character of an institution under  
your immediate charge. The function of  
a resort to brute force in support of private  
character must be considered by all moralists  
as equally wicked and absurd; that seems  
there can be used, when the same resort is  
made for the support of public character, and is  
applied to a subaltern? I know not what  
code can justify it.

P.S. your report for last month is duly  
received.

Wm. M. P.  
J. W. Kennedy, Esq.  
Sup. Br. Court,  
Ct. C.



New Orleans June 15<sup>th</sup> 1840.

Dear Sir

Mr Kennedy applied to the Secretary of the Treasury <sup>at Wash<sup>g</sup></sup> some time ago for funds for the contingent ordinary expenses. A warrant was sent for 6780 dollars only, and Mr Woodbury stated, in his letter, that he balanced them against me, as, including suspended items, 9390 dollars. No explanation came with the honorable Secretary's letter, and I am very much distressed about the matter. - I have paid nothing without a warrant from the Superintendent, and I cannot imagine what has been suspended. ~~and~~ Mr Kennedy has written to know, and, as soon as we hear from there, I may require your kind advice in getting things put straight again, and which, I trust, I will not apply for in vain.

Annexed is a memorandum of moneys received, paid, and due, in this quarter. by which you will see that we have not enough to meet the demands that will be made on us at the end of this month. The distance we are from Washington, the irregularity of the mails, and the necessary delay in issuing a warrant, require us to apply <sup>for money</sup> at least five weeks before wanted. and I have consequently <sup>ultimately</sup> asked something more than



needed in one quarter, so as to pay wages for the first month of the ensuing one. I am now at a loss what to do.

I take the liberty of enquiring from you, if the Treasr is not required to pay all demands made on him under a warrant from the Superintendent? - does not the warrant of the Superintendent release the Treasurer from responsibility?

The number of men employed in this mint now ~~was~~ is as follows

Laborers ——— 20.  
Night Guards ——— 4.  
Porter & door keeper ——— 2.  
To saw wood, carry coal &c ——— 1.

The law permits 20 laborers, but I understand the additional number has been sanctioned & Washington to be charged for under the head of contingencies.

I assure you, my dear Sir, that I am most anxious to keep my accounts in perfect order. I wait with great impatience to hear what is suspended. I will be very much obliged to you if you will write to me with any suggestions that you think will be useful. I am with assurances of respect and esteem, yours faithfully.

McClammach

To Dr  
R. M. Patterson

Amount balancer in my hands on

31 March 1840 ——— \$ 6295.70  
Less this sum in hands of Dr Patterson — 616.53

present Amount Treasury drafts ——— 5079.17  
6.780.-  
12459.17

Paid

Contingent expenses, including 3000 lbs coal  
Shinn & Hilditch, Commissioners — 2312.14  
1800.

Wages to laborers in April — 1631.12  
do in May, Night Guards — 2218.61

Building & Machinery — 346.25 = 7.558.12  
Leaving available \$4951.15

To be paid at the end of this month.

Salaries of officers & Clerks — 3225.

Wages, night watch & June — 2218.61

Bills against the mint already

presented ——— 2410.26  
\$ 7953.87



W. S. Branch Mount  
New Orleans, June 15. 1840

(Sir,

In your letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> ult. you ask for  
"the exact truth" of the circumstances attending  
the discharge of Ernst and Levis. - You  
will find it in the following lines.

Ernst before he was employed  
by Dr. Riddell, distinctly understood, and  
agreed that he was to be taken on trial,  
subject to dismissal, if he did not suit,  
and, at a salary of \$40 p<sup>r</sup>. month, until  
such time, as he should be admitted as a  
regular hand. - He had been with us but  
two weeks, when he went to the Comer, with  
many causes of dissatisfaction, among the rest,  
that he was to receive \$40, p<sup>r</sup>. month, but that  
in reality, the difference between that amount  
and \$65, at which he was to be put down  
upon the pay roll, was to go into the pocket



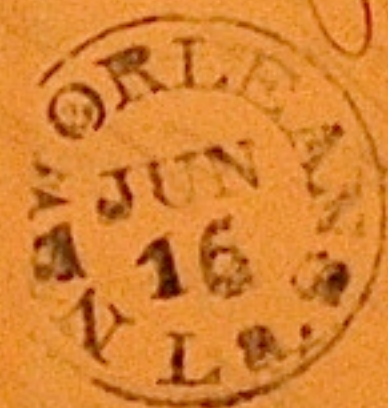
of Dr. Riddell himself. The Comr. very promptly  
replied, that these were matters with which he  
had nothing to do, and that the officer, before  
whom such complaints should be laid, was  
the Superintendent. Upon hearing this from  
Mr. Tyler, I sent for Ernst, who repeated  
his story to me, with this variation, that the  
125 p. m. ~~that~~ were to be for the benefit  
of Dr. McCarthy (one of the workmen) instead  
of the Miller and Refiner. He further  
assured me, that there were two other men  
in the Mint, viz, this same Dr. McCarthy, and  
a Mr. Cahill, (another workman in the melting  
department) between whom and Dr. Riddell  
a positive understanding existed, that the  
latter was to appropriate to himself a part  
of their wages. I had them both before  
me. Cahill was much surprised at my  
communication. He not only denied the  
fact that he was called upon to corroborate  
and stated that he had always received  
every cent of the wages for which he had  
contracted, but appeared to be mortified

and, in fact expressed himself so, that any one  
should for a moment suppose, that he would  
submit to any such imposition. He said further  
that he had no fault to find with Dr. Riddell  
who had in every respect, always treated him in a  
proper manner. Mr. Cahill, also bore testimony  
to the correctness of Dr. Riddell's statement to  
him. He said he had never heard that he  
was to receive any proportion of the wages of  
Ernst, but admitted that he had agreed with  
Dr. R. that fifty cents a day of  
what he was himself to get should be  
given to a Mr. Nixon, (who was employed  
in the Assay Department) for instruction  
etc. from him in the separating room. This ar-  
rangement, as you may suppose, I did not  
allow to be carried into effect. Of its impropriety  
Dr. Riddell was very soon convinced & matters  
were all set right long before the expiration of the  
month, when every man rec'd the full amount to  
which he was entitled.

No things are in my opinion very clear.  
In the fact, it never entered the mind of  
Dr. Riddell, to make any thing himself out of



the earnings of his men, and in the next as the plan  
by which he proposed to himself to remunerate them  
for teaching Mr. Carthy, him to separate by, was above-  
board, and consequently undisguised, it was contemplated  
in entire ignorance of its impropriety, and without any  
intent to wrong the Government - I am inclined to think  
that the dissatisfaction of Ennis originated in the circumstance  
that his wages were the lowest in the department in which  
he was employed - The Miller and Refuse, who had also dis-



P. M. Patterson Esq.  
Director of the Mint of the  
U. S.  
Philadelphia

= caused in him a disposition to retaliate / having come to the conclusion  
that he had not justly dismissed him - I think it he was right - I  
will relate Mr. Smith's case in my next B.

Very resp<sup>l</sup>ly Yrs<sup>l</sup> J. M. Howard

L. M. Patterson  
Director of the Mint



Albion N. S.  
June 13 /49.

Sir,

From editorial notices in the N. O. Sun  
of the 30th & 31st ult., and other such sources.

P.S. - In connection with this subject, it may  
be proper to mention that I received, a few days  
ago, a letter from Dr. John MacCarthy, who, it  
seems, was employed in Dr. Muddell's ~~Department~~ <sup>Department</sup>,  
and who makes a bitter attack upon that of-  
ficer. As it appeared, however, that Dr. Mac-  
Carthy was himself under suspicion, and was  
greatly irritated by this circumstance, and as  
you must necessarily have been acquainted with  
the whole affair, I did not think my interference  
in the case called for.

P.P.S. In addition to three boxes of this sent to you  
as stated in my letter of the 28th ult., <sup>we sent, on the 8th ult.,</sup> a fourth, con-  
taining one pair of quarter dollar dies.

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.

Sup. Br. Albion

N. O. Orleans.



Albion N. J.  
June 13 /40.

Sir,

From editorial notices in the N. J. Sun  
of the 30th & 31st ult., and other such sources,  
I have been pained to hear of evil  
reports, and suspicions, and investigations going  
regarding the ability & propriety of your Ministry,  
which it I pray you to let me hear  
from yourself - the only legitimate source  
to which I can look for information -  
the truth as to a matter in which I  
have so deep an official interest.

P. M. F.

In addition to three boxes of dies sent to you  
the last, on the 8th ult.,  
letter of the 28th ult., a fourth, con-  
sisting of quarter dollar dies.

Respectfully,  
Yours,

Albion  
N. J.



Copy.

Branch Mint New Orleans.  
Hon Levi Woodbury June 13. 1840.  
Secy of the Treasury.

Sir,

That injustice may not be done to myself, I feel it incumbent on me, to address you at this time.

For some weeks past no gold has been coined in this Mint. The last three melts of Gold ingots have been cracked in the coining department in rolling, - and yet by proper annealing I found no difficulty myself in rolling, successfully, samples from each melt. Knowing, and being now able to establish, that the ingots have all been of good quality, I have made a written request through our Superintendant, to be permitted, to use for an hour the annealing furnace and gold rollers in the coining department, that I may so far prepare the gold ingots of the next melt, by partial rolling before delivery to the coiner, as to preclude the possibility of their being cracked in subsequent operations, pledging myself to send you my resignation



nation, if I fail in rolling the ingots well. The  
coiner declines my request.

The matter in its commencement was sub-  
mitted to Dr. Patterson, whose reply we wait,  
and whose decision I hope will remove all  
difficulties.

I should have been loath to trouble you thus,  
were I not well assured that secret efforts are  
being made to prejudice my standing with  
the Government. The enclosed certificate, with  
the remarks preceding it, cut from one of our  
city papers, will give you an idea of some  
of the groundless measures taken against me.  
Conscious that I have well and faithfully  
performed my duties, I have but this single  
request to make: that if complaint seemingly  
worthy of your attention, be proffered against  
me, I may not be condemned unheard, nor  
without due inquiry. Pardon me for adding  
that my time for twelve years past has been  
almost exclusively devoted to Chemistry and  
the Natural Sciences. In 1836 I was employed  
to make a geological reconnaissance of Ohio.

For a while I held a professorship in the Cin-  
cinnati Medical College; and for four years past  
have been Professor of Chemistry in the Medical  
College of Louisiana. For my standing and  
ability I can, among many, call the following  
men to vouch: My old preceptor Prof. Amos  
Eaton, Troy, New York; Prof. B. Silliman, New-  
Haven; Prof. John Torrey, New York; Prof.  
J. B. Rogers & Prof. Aikin, Baltimore; Dr. S. G.  
Morton, Philadelphia; Dr. J. P. Hildreth,  
Marietta, Ohio; Dr. Daniel Drake & Prof.  
C. W. Short, Louisville, Kentucky: with most  
of whom I now maintain a correspondence.

Very respectfully,  
Your obt. Servt.  
(Signed) J. L. Riddell,  
Metter & Refiner.

\* Inclosed certificate as to examination of the vault.



W. S. Branch Mount  
New Orleans, June 11<sup>th</sup> 1840

Sir,

I have requested of Mr. Woodbury an increase of our Government deposits. As you will doubtless be consulted before any action is had upon the matter, allow me to solicit your support of my application, and to enclose a copy of my letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, as well as of the document therein mentioned.

Should you be of opinion, that an addition to our present complement of Workmen, would confer on our Institution advantages commensurate with the expense attending it, you would also lay us under great obligation to you by advocating it; the additional number to be, of course, determined by yourself.

I am Sir, with great respect  
Yr. obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
R. M. Patterson Esq. J. McKim

I have just rec<sup>d</sup>. your letter marked 'official', and will send you an early reply.



Treasury Department  
June 10. 1840.

Sir,

Your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> has come to hand.  
The box of dies referred to has also been received and forwarded  
to N. Orleans.

The boxes transmitted by you on the  
27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> ult. were also duly received and forwarded.

Very Respectfully

Sam<sup>l</sup> Woodbury  
Sec. of the Treasury

D<sup>r</sup>. W. Patterson  
Director of the Mint  
Philadelphia.



/Copr/

U. S. Branch Mint  
New Orleans, June 9, 1840

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir: Woodbury  
Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Treasury

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a document exhibiting the situation of our Branch Mint, and to call your attention to that part of it which relates to the Government Deposites.

In 1838 and '39, before this Mint commenced the coinage of gold, the portion, in silver, of that fund, was, by the payment in silver coin, to depositors of gold bullion, reduced to the sum of \$50,195, 09.

I submit to you whether this amount is not too small to admit of our making payments with that regularity and promptness which can alone secure heavy deposits for silver coinage. We owe now but for two silver deposits made previous to



the first of this month, and three small ones only have been made since.

I therefore suggest to you the propriety of adding to the U. S. Silver deposit in the Branch Mint, from one hundred, to the hundred and fifty thousand dollars. This increase would have the effect not only of insuring that promptness in our payments which is so very desirable, and of inspiring additional confidence in the Institution, but also, no doubt, of inducing larger importations of bullion, and enabling the Mint to come, in the annual coinage, much nearer to the expectations of its friends. These expectations cannot, I fear, be fully realized, with our present complement of men. The capacity of the Establishment is put down by Mr. Boutwell at \$3,000,000 p. annum. If I am correctly informed, this amount is not exceeded in the Philadelphia Mint with the advantages resulting from a Government fund of \$500,000, and an allowance of

between fifty and sixty workmen. Our public deposit is, as you know, little over one fifth of that amount, and our number of workmen is limited to twenty!

I have the honor  
to be

Very respectfully

J. A. S. S.

Sir? To Mr. Kennedy

Sup!



Branch Mint, New Orleans 8<sup>th</sup> June 1866.

Sr,

My incessant devotion to duties in the Mint has so far prevented me from giving the least attention to Texas plants since I wrote you last. Had I known beforehand how completely my time would be engrossed as Meltzer & Refiner, I should have declined the office. Nevertheless I feel an honest exultation in the success which has resulted from most of my plans and efforts. For instance:

I no longer melt silver for ingots in the small 1600 ounce cast-iron pots. Instead thereof I use a cast-iron pot of similar shape containing 15000 ounces. The thickness of metal is two inches. The convex bottom is protected by a basin of wrought iron. The thick convex cast-iron cover has a hole towards one side 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter, closed as in the small pots, for the purpose of charging the pot and taping out the melted silver. When the metal is fluid and has been well and repeatedly stirred, we pour out an assay ingot, wait ten or fifteen minutes for the settle, mend the melt to  $\frac{1}{16}$  of a millieme with certainty by adding copper or fine silver; stir again and tade into the moulds. Thus I never fail in a melt by missing the standard; or at least so far I have not, having made six melts, equal to near 80000 ounces of ingots. All things considered I find this plan incomparably better than using the small pots.

Had I not better recover silver from the poorest refuse grains by amalgamation? What think you of the comparative merits of nitric and sulphuric acid, for dissolving silver in the process of parting? Should Mexican bars be refined previous to parting?

The Superintendent of this mint has probably informed you that the Coiner and myself entertain conflicting opinions in regard to gold ingots. It is our mutual request that the matter should be submitted to you.



I find that gold from the separating room, unless carefully reboiled with fresh acid, generally contains traces of lead, antimony, or other base metals which render it brittle. This I toughen by remelting, alloying to near standard, stirring, exposing to air, casting on nitre and sometimes sulphur, and skimming off the dross. If the melted metal be poured into rather cool ingot moulds, and thus suddenly chilled from a high temperature, I find the ingots so brittle upon removing them as to be easily broken; but by subsequently annealing them at a dull red heat, they are rendered so tough that they may be bent double and forced everywhere in contact with a sledge-hammer, without breaking or even cracking. The same ingots raised to a yellow heat, or to a temperature approaching the melting point of gold, and then suddenly cooled by being plunged in water or a weak acid liquor, are rendered comparatively brittle. Now the coiner contends that the ingots should be cast with such qualities as to remain tough when thus annealed at any temperature; that is, no matter how highly heated, nor how suddenly cooled.

That gold is rendered brittle by sudden cooling from a high temperature, is, I believe, an admitted physical fact. (Vide Silliman's Chem. ii. p. 350. (c).)

The last two melts of gold only (nos 13 & 14 Dublin) have been cracked in rolling. I have in my vault a rolled ingot of the first of these two melts, which I succeeded in annealing and rolling in the presence of the coiner, without sign of fault, and which now bears the severest trials of toughness. The balance were highly heated and suddenly cooled and cracked the first time passing through the rollers.

If I am wrong in opinion or deficient in knowledge of the matter, I beg as a personal favor, and as a consideration of similarity in our tastes and former pursuits,

that you will frankly set me right, and communicate such useful information as your superior knowledge and long experience enable you to do. I will thank you also to refer me to such printed works as contain the relevant information.

Your Moller & Refiner is Dr. M. Clintock. I am told. I am more than half inclined to claim him as an old acquaintance, made in Pittsburgh in the Winter & Spring of 1832, when I gave a course of lectures on Chemistry in Lambdin's Museum. At least, I should feel most fortunate, if through your influence I could now establish a correspondence with him; thus profiting by his greater experience in melting and refining.

In conclusion I must allude to a subject rather unpleasant. Contrary to the dictates of my better judgment, but from motives of charity, near the first of April I admitted to a laborer's status, and pay in my department, Dr. John McCarty - bred an apothecary in Cork, Ireland - more recently a student in our Medical College. He became greatly dissatisfied because I did not find him worthy of promotion. For a few days he took upon himself to promulgate the most slanderous falsehoods in relation to my official doings. He said he wrote a letter to you on the subject. As the slander or libel will undergo a legal investigation, I have to request that you will transmit, to myself or Mr. Kennedy if you prefer it, the original letter, as a copy will not answer.

May not gold ingots be pickled by myself, and not by the coiner previous to being formally delivered to him? I do not exactly understand your instructions in that regard.



I copy from my books the amount in ounces of silver ingots, delivered each month this year to the Treasurer. By this you will see we are not retrograding.

Month	Ounces	dms
January	37105	45
February	67762	70
March	88316	35
April	106841	70
May	138349	25

PAID

Dr. R. M. Patterson  
Director of the Mint  
Philadelphia

The amount for May would have been increased to 143 432. 25, had six drafts of approved dollars ingots been received, instead 24th May.

Respectfully Yours  
J. L. Riddell.

Dr. R. M. Patterson



Mint of the United States,  
June 8. 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you,  
by the present mail, a box of dies, directed on  
the inner envelope to the Supt. of the Pr. Mint  
at New Orleans, to be forwarded under your  
frank as heretofore. This is the last box that  
will be sent at present. The receipt, at the  
Department, of three boxes, sent on the 27th, 28th,  
and 29th ult., has not yet been acknowledged.

N. M. P.

Director

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury. }



U. S. Branch Mint N. Orleans  
June 6. 1840.

Sir,

I have rec<sup>d</sup>. from Mr. Cammack, a note, a copy of which I now enclose, together with the letter for you, mentioned therein. In my last of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst<sup>t</sup> accompanying our Statement for May, I observed that I would in a short time communicate to you the cause why no gold had been coined for some time at this Mint, and other information in relation to our affairs.

With regard to the gold coinage, the matter stands as stated by Mr. Cammack. "Several melts have been made of gold which have been returned uncoined," the ingots having on every occasion proved too brittle. But there is a difference of opinion between the Melters and Coiner, concerning the cause of that brittleness, each contending, that it originates in the department of the other. Mr. Riddell is persuaded that his ingots are good. He says, that they are annealed by Mr. Tyler at too high a temperature / all that is required being "a dull red heat" and that being



then immersed in the pickle, and suddenly cooled,  
they are consequently brittle.

The Comer, on the contrary, maintains, that  
they are not well toughened and that they should  
be so made by the Mallet, and not to be affected  
in the cooling by any heat that is not beyond the  
"cherry red", which he says is several degrees higher  
than that insisted upon by the Mallet.

I am myself unable to determine between  
them, and am convinced that you are the only person  
to whom I can appeal, that would /in coming/ to a  
decision yourself, and furnishing me with such in-  
formation as would enable me to do so /give satis-  
faction to both parties/. I could send you an insight  
selected indiscriminately by me from the number  
retained to the Mallet and unfit to be coined, whereby  
you could settle the question very soon.

An occurrence had recently taken place  
between Dr. Riddell, and a person of the name of  
McCarthy, who was employed in his department,  
which I think it my duty to lay before you, as  
it may, before its consequences are over, interfere  
with our operation.

McCarthy had a quarrel a few days  
ago with Dr. R. and left the Mint. A report,  
of which he was the author, that the Mallet

was a dishonest man, and would prove himself a  
defaulter, if called upon to settle his accounts,  
soon reached the ears of his securities. They applied  
to me for information, and desired that I would suggest  
what course they should pursue. I advised them  
to call on Dr. Riddell, to communicate to him  
what they had heard, and to state that in justice  
to himself, as well as them, he should, without  
delay, throw open his vaults to the Treasurer  
in order that he might examine whether their  
contents corresponded with the amount with which  
he was charged. Dr. Riddell made not the  
slightest objection, and you will find the result  
in a certificate herewith enclosed, issued by the  
Treasurer on the day on which the examination was  
made, and which was inserted in the new  
paper, in which the report above mentioned had  
been previously noticed.

On the day succeeding, Dr. Riddell  
went to the lodgings of McCarthy and whipped  
him severely. He was accompanied by his brother  
who is the foreman of his department, and a Mr. Mason  
one of his men. He took them with him, he  
says, merely to prove that he was without any  
kind of weapon. The three were shortly after  
brought before an Officer of justice, who, upon



hearing the evidence, committed them all for trial  
before the Criminal Court.

The punishment for assault and battery is  
fine, or imprisonment, or both at the discretion of  
the Court. In case of the conviction of either  
of the workmen, their places may easily be supplied,  
but what are we to do if the Miller and Raper  
should be sentenced to such an imprisonment  
as would materially interrupt the operation  
of the Mint? I will apprise you immediately  
of the result of the trial.

We have rec<sup>d</sup> this the Secretary of the  
Treasury a box containing,

1 1/2 dollar gold die  
1 dime — do do, and  
1 1/2 dime — do do.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Yours &c. &c.

R. M. Patterson Esq.

Director &c

Phila

J. McKim  
Sep. 4







(Copy)

My dear Sir,

Enclosed I hand you a letter for Dr. Patterson, and if you think it not objectionable, please to forward it to him.

My remarks about Dr. Riddle are drawn from me only by a sense of justice due, as I believe to Dr. Patterson and to myself. Having the first recommended him for appointment, I conceive that I am obligated to communicate any disappointment which I have met with subsequent to the nomination.

As I am actuated only by a sense of duty, I trust that there will be no action on what I have written, and for that reason I suggest to you the propriety of my letter being considered private. I do this with more propriety as you have intimated to me your intention of reporting to Dr. Patterson on this subject. I hope that the particular



circumstances in which I am placed, will  
be a sufficient apology to you for my  
communicating with the Director of  
the Mint on this matter. I beg to  
assure you that it is far from my  
wish to be wanting in respect to  
you, or assume to myself duties  
that will be so much better  
performed by you.

Believe me very  
Sincerely your friend

J. M. Kennedy, Esq.  
Supt.

Cannock  
June 4 1840.



Albion Wash  
June 6 / 49.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th 4th inst. on the subject of a claim for extra work, made by Messrs. Clutchell & Son, for extra work done at the Smithsonian Albert Building.

In reply, I have only to state that, in a letter of the 11th of June last, (1839,) I communicated to the Secretary of the Treasury all the information that I possess upon this subject, ~~and~~ that <sup>all</sup> further explanations <sup>with regard to it</sup> must be derived from Mr. Gordon, - and that I have not <sup>yet</sup> received from <sup>him</sup> ~~Mr. Gordon~~ the letter which you announced. <sup>I feel the</sup> how desirable it is that this <sup>subject</sup> ~~claim~~ should be settled, brought to a conclusion, but I do not know of any further steps that I can take in the matter.

R. M. P.

To/ John Connolly, Esq.  
Washington.



Sir

New Orleans June 3. 1840.

Your valued letter of the 27 April was received by me in due course and ought to have been answered long since.

I was so glad to have from you the decision of the Secretary of the Treasury as to the propriety of turning foreign coins which may be received from the government for the purpose of paying contingent expenses. I agree with you that it would be horrible to pay out foreign coins from the government mint. Until I hear further from you I conclude it will be proper to pursue the plan that has been usual at this mint.

In your letter you make mention of a charge for toughening when small coins are asked for by depositors. A charge of this sort has never been made at this mint. nor do I understand that the silver is toughened by the melting & refining for small coins.

[The silver coinage during the past month was larger than ever before made in one month in this mint. With a good supply of bullion we could get more rapidly than I had imagined possible. The Corner struck on the 30 bullions 40,500 half dollars in one press.

In gold we have done nothing for a long time. The same difficulty now arises about gold ingots, that created so much trouble ~~when~~ <sup>last</sup> month about silver ingots. Several melts have been made of gold, which have been returned uncoined.

I will here remark to you candidly, and I do it with reluctance, that the melting & refining department, in its operations, has not reached the



anticipations I had entertained in consequence of the recommendations so warmly made by the friends of Dr. Hiddle. Now that he has succeeded in pressing in the Mint that harmony and good feeling so much to be desired, & without which the operations of the Mint must be retarded, and the satisfaction of the other officers rendered unpleasant. As it would not be fair to bring Dr. Hiddle's name before you for nomination, which I did without knowing him and without his knowledge, I deem it incumbent on me to apprise you of my disappointment.

I have watched most anxiously the movements in Congress respecting the Branch Mints.

Some of our friends there are under the belief that there is a want of friendly feeling on the part of the Mint in Philadelphia towards the Branch here. I have assured them that such, in my opinion is not the case; and have done so in such strong terms as will, I am sure, remove impressions that must have been erroneously formed.

I have not heard anything from Washington about my accounts, and am anxious to know that they have been properly stated. I informed you some time ago that <sup>the late statement</sup> I had used \$12,000 of the Bullion Fund to pay contingent expenses, and that a draft for that sum, which had been set for by Mr. Bradford, had been applied by me to the reimbursement of that sum in the Bullion account. I am very desirous to know that this is understood at Washington clearly, so as not to mix my accounts with Mr. Bradford's in any manner. I believe that you understand the transaction, and I am glad to know that

it is all correct & approved of by you. I informed the department of the circumstance at the time.

In paying money out at the Mint, either for contingent expenses, or for Bullion received, with the receipt of a Clerk known to be in the employ of a Merchant or Bank, is sufficient? or should the receipts, or warrants, be signed by the principal? I allude particularly to payments made on the weighmaster's receipt where no Certificate is issued. I have, in almost every instance, required the signature of a principal, but as our Mint is along so far from the business part of the city, it is attended with great inconvenience to the particularly to Cashiers of Banks who are now willing to send us as many Mexican dollars as they can come.

A statement of the amount due to depositors and memorandum of coins on hand, is ordered.

Our Silver debt will be paid in less than a week unless some unexpected heavy deposits be made in the meantime.

The Branch Bank, to Messrs. Salsman, Paul & Harty, of Philadelphia \$196.50 for one pair of gold shears. I beg you to pay them. I have advised this payment some time ago, but overlooked it. I crave indulgence from these gentlemen for my want of promptness.

I have, my dear Sir, written to you freely & candidly, in doing so transcending the bounds which etiquette draws between a superior and an inferior officer. I pray you, pardon me, a deep interest in the success of the Mint.



and I am sure that we can look to none for  
advice and support, better than to yourself.

I am with considerations of respect  
& esteem

your faithful servant

J. C. Cammack

To.  
Doct. R. N. Patterson  
director U. S. Mint  
Philadelphia.

Nov 30.  
Dec 18. 1870.

Wm. C. Cammack, Esq.  
Director U. S. Mint,  
Washington.



Rev. 2<sup>nd</sup> Branch M<sup>st</sup>  
N. Orleans June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1840

Sir;

Enclosed you have our Statement for May.  
It looks much better than that for April,  
but has fallen considerably short of my  
expectations. You will perceive that there  
has been no gold coined during the last  
month. This I would endeavour to  
explain now, but a desire to send you  
this report, by this day's Mail / which is  
about closing / induces me to postpone it  
for a short time, when I will also  
communicate to you other matters in relation  
to our Institution.

I am Sir very respectfully,

R. M. Patterson

Director &c.

W. O. L. Sen<sup>r</sup>

J. M. McKim  
Sup<sup>t</sup>



THE NEW ORLEANS SUN.  
Tuesday Morning, June 24 1840.

✱ We sincerely regret having been the  
cause of exciting undesired suspicion, in re-  
gard to the accounts of the melior and refiner of  
the Mint. Our information was derived from  
the misrepresentations of one who had lately  
been in the melior and refiner's employment,  
and whose authority we considered undoubted.  
Prompt as we are to expose abuses, we are equal-  
ly ready to do justice to an injured party. It  
gives us pleasure therefore to publish the follow-  
ing:

Treasurer's Office, U. S. Branch Mint.  
New Orleans, May 31, 1840.

It is known, that I have this day, at the re-  
quest of Dr. J. L. Riddell, melior and refiner of  
this mint, (and in the presence of J. M. Keene,  
Esq. Superintendent,) examined the contents  
of his vaults; I have weighed the bullion as far  
as is perceptible of being weighed, and have  
estimated the balance, and am satisfied that the  
amount of gold and silver bullion in the pos-  
sion of Dr. Riddell, is fully equal to that called  
for by the books of my office.

H. C. CAMMACK,  
Treasurer U. S. Branch Mint.



REMOVED.—DR. PETERS' principal office  
for the sale of his Vegetable Pills is  
No. 12, Broadway, between Duane and  
Houston streets, where a full and  
complete list of the pills will be  
found, and every other will  
be found. The line is copy.

following ships:  
CHEROKEE, 415 tons, H. Loring, commander.  
CAROLINE, 400 tons, S. Lemist, commander.  
CHARLESTON, 375 tons, D. Eldridge, com-  
mander.  
COLUMBIANA, 625 tons, G. Barker, commander.  
CONCORDEA, 605 tons, Harding, commander.

The above ships are all new, of first class, copper  
fastened and coppered, commanded by men of great  
experience, having large accommodations, with a  
separate ladies' cabin. Every attention will be paid  
to passengers, and the very best of stores provided  
for them.

The packets will be towed up and down the Mis-  
sissippi, and the strictest punctuality observed in  
the time of sailing, and should the regular season  
be detained in arriving, other ships equally as good  
will in all cases be substituted. A share of passen-  
age is solicited, and the agents pledge themselves  
to forward goods by said line, at the most moderate  
charges, and to advance all expenses of goods ship-  
ped, if required.

The ships will leave the 1st and 15th day of every  
month.

For freight or passage apply to the agents,  
JOHN A. MERRITT,  
82 Common St. near Camp St.



*Silver deposits unpaid 2<sup>d</sup> June 1840*

May 4	Geo. Whitman	\$ 470.97
20	Bank of Louisiana	10.062.32
25	Citizens' Bank	20.111.01
28	J. Laville	99.38
	A. Macarty	100.43
		<u>\$ 30.844.11</u>

*Gold deposits unpaid 2<sup>d</sup> June 1840*

<sup>1839</sup> Dec 12	A. Maynard	116.52
<sup>1840</sup> May 23	J. Valentine	1.532.68
25	J. Hepturn	3.033.09
		<u>\$ 4.482.29</u>

Balance of Silver Coinage \$ 8.078.54  
 — — Gold — 529.28



*Situation of the United States Branch Mint, New Orleans*

<i>Available funds on hand</i>			
In possession of the Mint in Gold		137,071.99	
"    "    "    in Silver		28,177.96	\$ 60,249.95
"    "    "    in Gold		39,357.50	
"    "    "    in Silver		58,457.80	92,815.10
Gold Coinage on hand			529.28
Silver Coinage on hand			50,327.21
Amount due by S. Fordhall, late Treasurer			2,342.16
			<u>\$ 206,263.70</u>

*Liabilities of the Mint*

Gold Bullion acc't. due to the Treasr. by this apc	\$	52.72
Silver Bullion acc't. due to the Treasr. by this apc		49.11
U. S. Deposit account, balance of this apc		122,400.00
Trofit & Loss, balance of this apc		3,845.33
Treasurer of the U. S. Special deposits		1,700.00
Amount due to sundry persons for deposits of Gold		78,216.54
Gold - 4780.94		
Silver 73,515.60		
\$ 78,216.54		<u>206,263.70</u>

*United States Branch Mint, New Orleans*

*Treasurer's Office, 30<sup>th</sup> May 1840.*

*Due the United States . . . . . 122,400.*

*which I have in Gold - 72,204.91*  
*in Silver - 50,195.09* 122,400.

*Attest*

*J. M. Smith*



(Unofficial.)

Albion Mass.  
May 28/49.

Dear Sir,

I received letters yesterday from Peter  
L. Serris and Ewald Ernst, complaining of the  
circumstances under which they had been dis-  
charged from your office, and <sup>the latter letter</sup> making accusa-  
tions of a very grave character, against Dr.  
Riddell. The same insinuation had  
come to my ears before, indirectly, through a cor-  
respondent of one of our workmen, but I ~~then~~ <sup>felt</sup>  
assured ~~my informant~~ that it must be without  
foundation, as I had just received a letter  
from you that was utterly <sup>incomparably</sup> inconsistent with  
the existence of any such offence as that as-  
cribed to me. The accusation, as you know, is  
that Dr. Riddell had employed a band of hands,  
with a at certain wages to be paid by the go-  
vernment, but with a private bargain that a  
part of the wages was to be given up, — the first  
story said for the private gain of Dr. Riddell,  
the second for the benefit of a Dr. MacCarthy  
employed in the establishment. The inference  
which I drew from Ernst's letter is that  
he had made the accusation in question, —  
that you inquired into it, and found it false.



and that you immediately dismissed him as a  
slanderer. — You will excuse me, however,  
for asking of you for the exact truth in this  
matter, inasmuch as the affair has been already  
passed upon my attention.

It is proper to <sup>state</sup> that the letter  
of Mr. Leitch is perfectly respectful to Dr.  
Riddell, against whom he makes no accusation  
or complaint, except that he had dismissed him  
without cause. Leitch has respectable connections  
here, and says that he writes only for the purpose  
of removing <sup>the</sup> unfavorable impressions which his  
discharge might make against his character.

I have marked this letter as "unofficial",  
because I do not wish to institute any  
formal inquiry, or to express the slightest  
doubt of the propriety of the measures which  
you have taken as to the discharged men.  
My predilections as to Dr. Riddell are very  
favorable.

R. M. P.

To /  
John M. Kennedy, Esq.  
Sup. Br. Court  
New Orleans.

P. S. We sent, by yesterday's mail, to the Sec.  
of Treasury, to be forwarded to you  
under his frank, a box containing 1 pr.  
of dime & 1 pr.  $\frac{1}{2}$  dime dies. We send to-  
day a box containing 1 pr.  $\frac{1}{2}$  dollar dies;  
& shall send to-morrow a third box, con-  
taining 1 pr.  $\frac{1}{2}$  eagle, & 1 pr.  $\frac{1}{4}$  eagle dies.  
~~The receipt of which please acknowledge.~~



Mint of the United States,  
May 27. 1860.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you,  
by the present mail, a box of dies for  
the Br. Mint at New Orleans, to be forward-  
ed, under your frank, to the Supt, as ad-  
dressed upon the inner envelope.

Two boxes more, for the same Mint,  
will be sent by the two next mails.

Very respectfully,

Yours

N. M. P.

D

To

Am. Secy. Woodbury.

Sec. of Treas. }



New Orleans 17<sup>th</sup> May  
1840.

Respected Sir

I take the liberty of flying to you for protection, as I cannot obtain it here being discharged from the mint by Dr. Riddle and without his assigning any cause, my character is injured, I am even looked upon with suspicion by those who heretofore would serve me and who know that I was employed in the mint am now discharged and nobody knows why. I went to the superintendent for redress and he only fed me with promises which were never realized.

The following is the substance of my dispute with Dr. Riddle: he made a contract with me prior to the first of April to work in his department at a salary of \$65 per month but compelled me to the agreement of paying him 50<sup>cts</sup> per day, (for the purpose as he said) of increasing the salary of Dr. MacCarthy who is employed in the establishment and who never heard a word of the transaction from Dr. Riddle.



Still some days after my discharge  
I was also compelled to board with him  
at \$12 per month, on my reporting the  
nature of my contract to the superinten-  
dent, and Dr Riddle being called up, he  
immediately discharged me, and on the  
settling of my account he allows me  
but \$1.62 1/2 per day in the way of  
our other engagement, after previously  
expressing himself perfectly satisfied  
with me, - in case of any investigation  
of his conduct, I am fortunate enough  
to have secure proofs innumerable  
of his guilt -

I am yours respectfully

Ewald Enos



To  
Dr. Patterson      New Orleans, May 16<sup>th</sup> 1840  
Director of the U. S. Mints.

Respected Sir You will perhaps be surprised to receive these few lines from one who is so little known to you. but I feel convinced that the circumstances in which I am placed demand the correspondence on my part. The circumstances are simply these you will perhaps recollect, that I came out here immediately after the lamented Mr. Maxwells the late Minter & Refiner of the U. S. Branch Mint at this place in whose employment I remained as Foreman of the melting department up to the time of his death. Work was continued in that capacity of the Mint in the melting department until the appointment of Dr. McDell the present incumbent by whom I was also employed as Foreman of the Minter & Refiner's Department. The duties of which station I have the humble satisfaction of believing were faithfully and honestly performed by me during the whole time I was so engaged, of this however I would leave others to speak and therefore refer to the letters of Mr. Maxwell the late Minter & Refiner and to Mr. A. C. Cammack the present Treasurer also Mr. Jacob Barker of this city.



But to my utter surprise and astonishment  
and without any reason being assigned about  
the 1<sup>st</sup> of April last Dr Reddell informed me that  
I was discharged from the department of the mine  
under his direction, & thus without any apparent  
cause being assigned I found myself thrown  
out of a situation in which I am not  
conscious of having committed any intentional  
error nor is any laid to my charge and in  
the performance of the duties appertaining  
to the station which I held I have undergone  
that pestilence of a southern climate the  
yellow fever and at the time of my discharge  
I had just taken upon myself the responsibilities  
of a matrimonial engagement, I found myself  
compelled either to quit the mint and seek for  
employment elsewhere or accept an inferior station  
in the coiners department. Thus finding my hope  
of advancement blasted at once and myself  
placed in a situation from which the most  
unfavorable inferences might be drawn in relation  
to my character and actions more especially as  
Dr Reddell has admitted that I understood & had  
faithfully performed my duties, which will  
very naturally lead to the supposition that he  
would not discharge a man who understood  
and performed his duties without sufficient  
reason, these and a number of other conclusions

equally as unfavorable to my character might be  
inferred from the position which I am thus  
thrown into, hoping that you will excuse me  
for troubling you with this long epistle. In  
conclusion I would add that I do not expect  
to be restored to the station which I held in the  
Melter & Refiner's department nor would I ~~accept~~  
accept such a restoration under the direction of the  
present incumbents. I therefore beg leave to lay the  
foregoing grievances before you feeling satisfied  
that whatever action you may take on the subject  
will be satisfactory.

To Dr Patterson

Director of the U. S. Mints

Very respectfully,  
Your humble servant

Peter S. Lerch

P. S. as my friends are most all drunk in  
Philas and should you think proper  
to inquire of my respectability I refer you  
to E. Lerick 242 North Third St a Leather dealer  
and to Lerick & Jenkins 150 Market St Shoe  
Dealers



Minut U. S. — May 12/40.

Sir,

You are aware that all my efforts to call the attention of Congress to the errors and evils arising from the existing laws making certain foreign coins a legal tender have failed. There is one form in which this matter presents itself that is particularly annoying, and ~~which~~ <sup>where</sup> the remedy may be applied, as I presume, by a simple instruction from yourself. I refer to the receipt, from the clients themselves, of foreign coins drawn out from the government for paying ordinary expenses. At the St. Albans Mint, the Treasurer informs me that he has counted such money to be received; but this course will always have the effect of changing the nominal value of the amount, and ~~of~~ will require that corresponding entries be made in the bullion profit and loss account. Under these circumstances, I do not think it proper to act in the case, without authority from the Department, and I accordingly ask for such authority.

In connection with this subject, it may not be improper to direct your attention to the 3d Section of the "Act of regulating foreign coins and for other purposes," passed Feb. 9, 1793. It is as follows:

"That all foreign gold and silver coins, (except Spanish milled dollars and parts of such dollars)



which shall be received in payment for monies  
due to the United States, after the said time,  
~~For the expiration of three years after the coinage~~  
~~shall commence at the date, to be announced by procla-~~  
~~mation of the President,] when the coining of~~  
gold and silver coins shall begin at the date  
of the Act, shall, previous to their being es-  
sented in circulation, be coined ~~as~~ <sup>in</sup> accordance  
with the Act entitled an act ~~to~~ <sup>for</sup>  
~~and~~ establishing a Mint, and regulating the  
coins of the U.S.

I suppose that the subsequent laws ma-  
king foreign coins a legal tender have vir-  
tually ~~superseided~~ <sup>superseded</sup> this enactment, — but it  
shows the ~~policy~~ <sup>views</sup> of the government at the time,  
and what I believe to be its true policy now.

P. M. P.

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.



W. J. Branch Mount  
New Orleans, May 7, 1840

Sir,

In my last to you of the 3<sup>d</sup> instant, enclosing our Statement for April, I said that I would by the next day's mail write you in relation to that Statement. What I meant was, that I would assign the cause, why our Comage for that month, fell so far short of that for March.

This explanation has been delayed a little, in consequence of certain inquiries made by me of the Comar, respecting our quarter-dollar press, to which I requested, at his earliest leisure, a reply, which I intended, at the same time, to submit to you, on furnishing the reason why that press was not sooner put in operation - It was not until yesterday, that I rec<sup>d</sup> Mr. Tyler's communication, from which I will give you a few extracts.

"When we commenced in November last, I  
"found the press in the same condition as when it  
"arrived from Phil<sup>a</sup>. The rock-shaft was broken.  
"The frame opened a crack near the socket.  
"The ball and socket, as well as the two upper  
"joints were worn rough so as to require refitting.



" About the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan. I commenced by your request  
" to put the press in working order. I found it necessary  
" to make a new triangle, and mailed myself of the  
" opportunity for altering its pivots, and mode of  
" shifting to the improved plan adopted and  
" found beneficial in the two other presses - I  
" also made a new ball and socket, as the old  
" one could not be properly secured to the triangle.  
" The two upper joints were refitted, and grooving  
" cut to receive the oil &c - also a new rock shaft  
" a new tube, and new forceps or pitchers, as the  
" press had never been used for stuff. By your  
" advice I also detached the fly wheel from  
" the main shaft, and secured it by a friction  
" collar &c &c - It was completed about  
" the 1<sup>st</sup> of April last - During the time it  
" was repairing, I employed generally only one  
" hand, but kept workmen at it during their  
" leisure from the operations of coining - The  
" dies were then fitted, and as soon as the cutting  
" dies could be made, the mulling machine  
" prepared, and the silver passed through the  
" several processes preparatory to stamping, the  
" press was put into operation, which was I

" on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April -"

" We were in the early part of April thrown back  
" some 8 or 10 days in the coining in consequence of a  
" large deposit of silver which it was found exceedingly  
" difficult to work the mallet having had to refuse  
" it as often as three times - The new deposits  
" were at that moment inconsiderable, we  
" had very little bullion on hand that did not require  
" separating, and it was late in the month before  
" we rec<sup>d</sup> our order from Philadelphia - There  
" were in all 48 Carboys, one having been broken on  
" board of each vessel - The two boxes  
" containing the scales and weights, and one  
" package of copper syphons, have also  
" come to hand - We are in hopes that  
" the coining for this month will make  
" up for the small amount of that of the last -"

" I trust that these "excuses" will be deemed  
" sufficient by you, altho they might perhaps not  
" satisfy Mr. Barton - I could but contrast  
" the authoritative tone of his letter to the  
" Secretary of the <sup>Treasury</sup> ~~Secretary~~, with the com-  
" munications of him in whose hands the law



has put the control of the Branch Mint - If he be  
satisfied, that under all the circumstances we are doing  
our best, the "hurry" that Mr. Barton happens to be  
in, is not of much importance -

I am Sir, with great respect  
your humble servant  
R. M. Patterson Esq.  
Director of the Mint

J. M. Kennedy  
Sup.

J. M. Kennedy  
Director of the Mint of the U.S.  
Philadelphia



Recd. by Mr. Kennedy  
May 7.  
New Orleans.  
May 18 1840.



U. S. Branch Mint  
N. Orleans, May 2. 1846

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a statement  
of our operations for the month of April,  
and will write you in relation to it  
to morrow's mail.

Very respectfully

J. C. Ber. Secy.

J. McKim

Sup.

A. M. Patterson Esq.

Director of the Mint of the U. S.  
Wash.



Statement of the Deposits and Coinage at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of April 1840

Kind of Deposits	Deposits					Coinage			
	Actual Weight	Standard Weight	Value before deductions	Value after deductions	Total Value before deductions	Denominations	Number of pieces	Value	Total Value
	ounces, dec.	ounces, dec.	Dolls, cts.	Dolls, cts.	Dollars, cts.			Dollars, cts.	Dollars, cts.
<b>Sold:</b>						<b>Sold:</b>			
U. S. Bullion, say	56 43	40 67	756 64	749 56		Quarts, Eagles, say	8800	22,000 00	
Foreign Bullion, "	53 19	37 14	690 40	690 14					
Foreign Coins, "	1134 97	1099 13	20449 00	20449 00					
					21,896 12				22,000 00
<b>Silver:</b>						<b>Silver</b>			
U. S. Bullion, say	47 44	17 55	20 42	20 37		Half Dollars, say	82,000	41,000 00	
Foreign Bullion, "	1402 05	1444 61	1680 97	1678 23		Quarter Dollars, "	20,000	5,000 00	
Foreign Coins, "	46550 25	46346 39	53930 14	53930 14		Pimes	20,000	2,000 00	
					55,631 53				48,000 00
						Total pieces	130,800 108,000		
						Total Coinage		70,000 00	
					77,527 65				

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans  
Treasurer's Office, April 30<sup>th</sup> 1840

A. C. Hammack

Treasurer



Treasury Department  
April 29. 1820.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt, this morning, of a box of dies, which has been forwarded to the Sup. of the Branch Mint at N. Orleans.

Enclosed you will receive an extract from the account of G. M. Stacum Consul of U.S. <sup>at Orleans</sup> being his charge for Coins furnished for the Mint, and I would take occasion to remark that it is desirable this and similar accounts forwarded to the Mint should be arranged as early as practicable, that the parties may be ~~credited~~ here in their respective accounts with the Government.

Very Respectively

Saml. W. Woodbury  
Sec. of the Treasury.

J. R. M. Patterson  
Director of the Mint  
Philad<sup>a</sup>.



In the accounts of George W. Hacum, U States  
Consul at Rio de Janeiro, from 31 May to 31 August  
1839, the following charge occurs, which is respectfully  
referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

"Amount paid the Comptroller of the Imperial Treasury  
for Brazilian coins, ordered by Mr. Patterson,  
Director of the Mint, at Philadelphia 24.24  
Commission thereon at 5 per cent. 1.21  
Dolls 25.45

Treasury Department  
Fifth Auditor's Office.  
April 29, 1840.



United States Branch Mint  
New Orleans 29<sup>th</sup> April 1840

Sir

On receipt hereof, you will please pay to Messrs Baldwin Vail & Hufty, a bill of theirs against this Branch Mint, amounting to \$196.<sup>00</sup> being cost of one pair of Sago Shears made for the Mitter and Refiner's Department. Which amount you will please charge to my account, as Treasurer of this Branch Mint.

I am with great respect

Yours very faithfully

H. C. Cammack

Treas<sup>r</sup>

D. K. Patterson  
Director U. S. Mint.



Mint of the United States,  
April 28. 1840.

Sir,

I send by the present mail to the Sec-  
retary of the Treasury, to be forwarded to you  
under his frank, a box containing

- 1 Half dollar tail die
- 1 Doime do. do.
- 1 Half-dime do. do.

Mr. Tappan informs me that he has a supply  
of head-dies of the above denominations.

W. M. D.  
Director.

To,  
Jos. M. Kennedy,  
Supr. Br. Mint.  
New Orleans.



Minut U.S.

April 27/56

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst.

I thank you for sending me a copy of your quarterly account, as I am always glad to be made acquainted with your transactions, even when I have no immediate official control over them.

You say that Mr. Kennedy has it in contemplation to apply for an increase in your government deposits. I know that a good fund of this kind is very advantageous in most quarters, and I wish the application intended could succeed. I have <sup>little</sup> hope of it however. The public treasury is now too poor, to admit of the withdrawal & appropriation of which you desire.

In my letter of the 14th of March, I explained, at large, the course pursued at this Mint, as to the valuation of deposits of Mexican dollars, and I will add that I do not think it would be safe or right to pursue any less rigid course. When deposits of Mexican dollars are made



with us, we have often made prompt pay-  
ment, on account, and to the nominal  
value of the deposits. But this must remain  
a final transaction. ~~There~~ we have, I  
believe without exception, found a balance  
remaining due to the depositor: but if it  
should prove otherwise, in consequence of a  
minting of counterfeit or any other cause,  
then the depositor must be required to  
return the ~~balance~~ difference. I speak  
now of the case in which half dollars  
are coined. Where small coins are required,  
and the charge for toughening is small,  
there is a slight loss on ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> deposi-  
tor, or Mexican dollars. I object, al-  
together, to any bargain, that the Mint  
shall return the nominal value, whatever  
may be the true value. On the whole,  
such a traffic would be profitable to the  
Mint, but then it is decidedly illegal.

Your question as to the <sup>re-</sup>coinage of  
foreign ~~coins~~ <sup>money</sup>, received from the government for  
the payment of contingent expenses, is a  
very important one, which has frequently  
presented itself to my own mind, but on  
which we have not yet acted at this office.  
I think it very desirable that such re-  
coinage should be made; but there is

difficulty in the way, prevented by the fact  
that there will be a profit or a loss in  
the operation. It appears to me, therefore,  
that authority for such recoinage should be  
asked of the Department, with the attendant  
privilege of opening a profit and loss account  
in this coinage of such government transactions.  
If the substituting system shall be establish-  
ed, the question will be increased in import-  
ance. I will ~~if~~ write to the Secretary  
of the Treasury on the subject, and let you  
have his decision. It would be mentioned  
that the agents should pay out foreign coins,  
especially ~~if they~~ <sup>if they</sup> do not correspond with our  
monetary system, such as British shillings, &c.

R.M.P.

D. C.

W/  
H. C. Carmichael, Esq.  
Treasurer of Bechtel,  
San Francisco.



Mint of the United States,  
April 28. 1860.

Sir,

I take the liberty of <sup>handwriting</sup> ~~forwarding~~  
to you, by the present mail, a box of dies for  
the St. Mint at New Orleans, to be forwarded  
under your frank to the Superintendent, & ad-  
dressed upon the inner envelope.

Very respectfully,

Yours

R. M. P.

D

To/  
Hon. Levi Woodbury.  
Sec. of Treas.







Mount W. L.

April 22d, 1846.

Sir,

I received, this morning, your letter of the 19th. I have to acknowledge the receipt of your amended report for January and February, and of your report for March. The last is particularly satisfactory, as it holds out the prospect of your <sup>soon</sup> getting your coinage in advance of all the claims upon you, so as to make the government deposit efficient for the purchase of bullion ~~by~~ with prompt payment.

I have also to acknowledge the receipt, this morning, of your letter of the 12th inst, in answer to mine of the 24th ult., on the subject of insinuations <sup>contained</sup> unfavorable to the official character of Mr. Tyler. I have had sent a copy of this correspondence to the Secretary of the Treasury, and this will close the matter for the present. I returned, from yesterday, from a short visit to Washington, <sup>where</sup> I found Col. Benton (from whom the inquiry certainly came that led to the Secretary's letter,) in much better humor with your effort, in consequence of the attack upon it. The ~~Attorney~~ <sup>Attorney</sup> ~~General~~ <sup>General</sup>



that you ought to be winning at the rate  
of three millions a year.

I send, <sup>enclosed</sup> ~~subscribed~~, a copy of a recent corres-  
pondence respecting your claim, which with  
which it is well for you to be acquainted.  
I would particularly call your attention to  
that part which regards the coinage of quar-  
ter dollars.

P. M. F.  
D. C.

To  
Mr. M. Kennedy, Esq.  
Super. District,  
New Orleans.



Branch Mint of the United States  
New Orleans April 18<sup>th</sup> 1840

Sir

I have thought it prudent to keep  
you fully informed at all times, of the condition of  
our coining dies - I have received in 1840, three  
pairs each, of  $\frac{1}{2}$  p. dimes &  $\frac{1}{2}$  p. dimes, - 2 of  $\frac{1}{2}$  p. dollars, 1 of  $\frac{1}{4}$   
& 1 of  $\frac{1}{2}$  p. eagles - which are disposed of as follows -

The first pair of  $\frac{1}{2}$  p. dollars, stamped about  
50,000 pieces, and gave away either from bad hard-  
ening, or from using bad silver, the latter of which  
I am inclined to think was the case, from the fact  
of their both breaking about the same time, and presenting  
the same peculiar fractures, as also from the fact of find-  
ing several coins in the box containing iron. Two pairs  
of  $\frac{1}{2}$  p. dimes & 1 of dimes were broken in the same way before I  
discovered that the silver contained iron. When on further  
examination I found I had several draughts of ingots  
containing large pieces of iron or steel, all of which was  
duly represented to the Chapt. and returned for refining.

The second pair of  $\frac{1}{2}$  p. dollar dies struck about 150,000  
pieces, when the tail die gradually gave out. The head  
& head and third tails are now in the press, in good order, the  
head having struck upwards of 300,000 pieces. From  
the appearance of the tail I think it will not last longer  
than this month out - The second pair of dimes  
struck 310,000 pieces, and are still partially good. The



the third pair are both too short for the press, notwithstanding which I could use them both by filling cups to their bottoms as I have done once before. But the tail die is too shallow not having a full head before grinding. The third 1/2 dimes have not yet been tried from the fact of my not having had any silver since about the 25<sup>th</sup> last month from which I could possibly work small coins.

The quarter dollar press had been refitted, & the dies prepared for use, but owing to the M & K. not having ingot moulds enough. They will not be called in requisition for some length of time yet.

Thus you will see, I am confined almost to 1 pair of 1/2 dollar, & 1 of 1/2 dime dies, yet I believe you will be satisfied from the above statement that thus far they have done all that could be expected of them, and from the difficulties arising from our being at such a great distance from the mother mint I am sure you will see the propriety of our having at least three pair of the denominations most in use at all times on hand.

I have made great improvement in hardening and tempering the dies, since I commenced & hope before many days to give entire satisfaction in that respect.

I entertain no fears for the performance of my own department provided the silver is supplied to me in a proper state for coining.

In rebuilding the middle size press I have deviated in some respects from the former plan and proportions & thus far the result is very favourable, especially

in the plan for pivot, or centre of the triangle as also in the mode of suspending it by a jointed connection, which I think would enable me to run the press 100, per revolutions per minute, but I fear for the feeding - consequently I gear it at about 80, per minute.

As our press has been attended since they left Philad<sup>a</sup>. I have thought it best to send you the lengths for the dies of the three presses - which are as follows

Length of 1/2 dollar when fitted -	tail die	2 1/8 inches
" " " " " "	head "	2 "
" 1/4 " " " "	head & tail alike	1 3/4 "
" dime " " " "	tail	1 3/8 "
" " " " " "	head	1 1/4 "

Very Respectfully  
Your Faithful Servant,  
Philes B. Tyler  
Coiner

To  
Dr. R. M. Patterson.  
Director, U. S. Mint



Branch Mint of the United States,  
New Orleans, April 17 1840

Sir

I have received your esteemed favor of the 1st instant, covering your account of moneys received & expended on behalf of this Mint, during the first quarter of the present year, and showing balance in your hands to my credit of \$16.53. which is correct.

Your letter of the 4th March to Mr. Kennedy answers mine of the 14th of the previous month, but it appears that the inquiry I made of you, respecting the right to exchange American Coins for foreign, was not expressed plainly enough to be understood by you, in as much as both the interpretations of which you say it is susceptible, and according to which you framed your reply, do not answer my inquiry. I will therefore, now endeavor to explain my views to you in the plainest possible manner.

Some of our Banks here, will not deposit Mexican Coins to be melted, assayed &c. according to the regulations of the Mint, as they are unwilling to run the risk of sustaining any loss, should there be any, but they are willing to exchange them for American Coins, at their nominal value, say One thousand Mexican Dollars, for One thousand American. I wish to know whether it would be warrantable for me, (after we are out of debt) to make such exchanges at the risk of the Mint, or at



my own risk: By this means, the Mint can always have a  
fair supply of Bullion for its operations.

I should also like to know, if I can have coined  
the money, received to pay contingent expenses, and in doing  
so, if it is at my own risk: under the impression that this  
could be done, I have had coined the two last sums received  
by me from the Government. Will you will please give me your  
views.

My quarterly accounts go forward, by the mail that  
carries this, to the Secretary of the Treasury. I send you  
a copy of our balance sheet, for your examination, and will  
be pleased to furnish any other document, which may be in  
any way interesting to you. I am anxious to have my  
accounts in perfect order, should you see or hear of the smallest  
irregularity, I trust you will point it out to me.

Mr. Kennedy has it in contemplation to apply for  
an increase in the United States Deposit Account, say for  
\$100,000 more, which will be sufficient to keep the  
Mint regularly supplied with Bullion, which can not  
be done with the present deposits.

I am Sir,

with great respect  
Yours very faithfully

A. C. Hammond

Treas.

D. R. M. Patterson

Director of the Mint



U. S. Branch Mint N. Orleans  
April 12. 1840

Sir,

It was with no small degree of surprise that I learned from your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> ult: that attempts had been made (indirectly you presume) to convey to the mind of the Secretary of the Treasury, impressions unfavorable to the official character of Mr. Tyler's Under such circumstances you apply to me for information and for my frank opinion. I will answer your inquiries in the order in which they are made.

I have always found Mr. Tyler attentive to his business in the Mint; he has shown a proper anxiety to get forward with his work, and I have no cause to be dissatisfied with him. The fact of an unreasonable accumulation of ingots in his hands, or in those of the Treasurer, has never to my knowledge, he has from time to time "come" all the ingots prepared for him, and has also been able to keep pace with the Melters. If it has happened once or twice only, that a little delay has taken place in the department of the latter, it has, first, because a considerable quantity of bullion, some of which we still have on hand, has required separating and that it is difficult here, and sometimes impossible to obtain the aids, and, in the next place on account of the necessity of returning on large sums



of ingots to be refused, from the circumstance of their containing antimony - The demand for half-dimes has not been of late very considerable - Should it ever become so, that coinage shall be restricted within such limits as will not keep the Mint behind hand and in debt -

I have no fault to find with any of the officers. In the Mint they all appear to be disposed so to discharge the duties of their respective departments, as to preserve harmony in the Institution, and to win for it, your approbation and the confidence of the public. If there be any <sup>intentional</sup> ~~extraneous~~ <sup>interference</sup> on foot, I do not know it. Have you any idea of the source from which the Secretary of the Treasury has derived his information - You suggest to me the propriety of I think the insinuation against Mr. T. can be unfounded, of considering the subject of your communication confidential. Having much confidence in Mr. Cammack, and knowing in how great a degree he has the interests of the Mint at heart, I have deemed it proper to show that communication to him, with the same injunction, and with the request that he will state at the foot of the letter, whether

he concurs with me, in the statement I have given at your desire.

The dies that we have rec<sup>d</sup>, are

1 pr. of  $\frac{1}{2}$  Doll.

1 pr. "  $\frac{1}{4}$  ditto

1 pr. of Dimes

1 pr. of  $\frac{1}{2}$  dits and

1 pr. of  $\frac{1}{2}$  eagle -

We have also rec<sup>d</sup>. Bills of lading for articles shipped on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> ult.

The rules given by you in the place of your former instructions in relation to the ingots and clippings that pass between the Mallet and Corner, shall be observed for the future -

Very respectfully,

Your Obedt. Servant.

J. McKim

Sup<sup>t</sup>

N. M. Patterson Esq  
Director & Co.

I concur in the above letter. I think Mr. Tyler has always shown great anxiety to get forward with the coinage -

McCammack

Chas<sup>r</sup>



Minister of the United States.

April 16 /44.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., enclosing ~~me~~ a copy of one to you of the 13th, from Mr. Benton of the Senate, making inquiries respecting the New Orleans Mint.

In answer to Mr. Benton's first question, I have to state that the New Orleans Mint has a quarter-dollar press, and has had quarter-dollar dies sent to it from here, in January and in March. If no quarter-dollars have been coined, I must presume that it is because they have not been asked for by depositors. Of all silver coins, <sup>(except dollars)</sup> they are by far the least in demand here. At New Orleans, the coin most sought for against of the Mint is the half-dollar, in which a pretty traffic is carried on, in consequence of ~~them~~ <sup>its</sup> being current at 6 1/2 cents. I agree, however, fully, with Mr. Benton, that quarter-dollars ought to be coined at New Orleans, and I will call the attention of the Superintendent to this matter.

I am not able to give a positive answer to the question whether ~~more~~ <sup>more</sup> ~~further~~ <sup>further</sup> than one they will more than one press at ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~time~~ <sup>time</sup> at the New Orleans Mint; but it is certain that ~~one~~



~~press~~ constantly employed they need not employ more than one to strike all the platelets that they can prepare with their force, and far more than all the bullion given to them for coinage. The deposits in March amounted to but ~~\$1,000,000~~ \$13,085 in gold, and \$85,201 in silver. The gold could be struck, in half and quarter eagles, in about an hour and a half, and in quarter eagles in about three hours. The silver, if coined into half dollars, would occupy one press 4 1/2 hours, or <sup>less than</sup> ~~about~~ five days work: quarter dollars would take <sup>some half day</sup> ~~three~~ <sup>times</sup> this time. Our present rate of coining dimes and half dimes, is 8 1/2 in a minute, or 5000 pieces in an hour, with one press. 4 days work, of ten hours, would therefore give \$5,000 worth of dimes, and \$2,500 of half dimes. The great labor <sup>in making coins</sup> expenditure of time and labor is not in the press work, but in the numerous and often complicated processes necessary to prepare the bullion for the press. During the last year, when we coined more than \$2,000,000 worth, we did not there was not, on an average, more than one press constantly employed, ~~though~~ <sup>the work of one</sup> and in ~~this~~ <sup>the</sup> included the striking of upwards of three millions of cents.

Have not supplied the strabans, at least  
with dice for the eagle, because I think it <sup>better</sup> proper

that the small amount of gold which they receive should be coined into half and quarter eagles.

~~The Branch at New Orleans has dis-~~  
~~appeared, therefore, all those who regard its~~  
~~establishment~~

I desire, as sincerely as Mr. Brewster, that there may be no more excuses from the Massachusetts Mint, and especially such excuses as occurred last year in the death of two of the officers and the removal of two others. ~~Having sufficient cause.~~ At present, I apprehend the principal excuse to be apprehended ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> all there is a deficiency of bullion for coinage.

P. M. P.

P. M.

To  
Mr. Levi Woodbury  
Sec. of Treasury.



Treasury Department  
April 14. 1870.

Sir,

I enclose a copy of a communication received this morning from Mr. Benton of the Senate, and will thank you for such information as will enable me to reply to Mr. B's <sup>inquiries</sup> -  
Very Respectfully

Samuel Hays  
Sec. of the Treasury

D. R. M. Patterson  
Philadelphia.



Copy.

Senate Chamber, April 13<sup>th</sup> 1840.

Dear Sir,

I have reason to believe that the branch mint at New Orleans has done something better during the month of March than heretofore, that it has coined about \$100,000, but that is but little more than the one third of the capacity of that Mint.

I hope that the chapter of excuses is exhausted, and that we are going to see what the Mint can do. As yet I have seen no quarters, dollars mentioned from that Mint. Can you do me the favor to enquire whether they have dies and a press for that coin? and if so, when they received them? and what is the reason they do not work? Also, whether they work but one press at a time? and if so, why not work two or three? Also, whether they have the dies for the eagle? Dr. Patterson, I presume, can answer all these questions, and I prefer to get the answers through you, without the formality of a call through the Senate.

That Branch Mint at N. O. was one of



my pet children. It has disappointed me  
sadly; thus far, we have had excuses for three  
years, and I want no more of them. I now  
want to see a coinage at the rate of \$3,000,000.  
per annum.

Yours truly  
(Signed) Thomas H. Benton.

Hon. Mr. Woodbury  
Secr. of the Treasury.



(Copy)

United States Branch Mint  
New Orleans - Corner's office Sep.  
9<sup>th</sup> 1840.

To J. McKim, Esq.  
Supt.

Sir,

Among the difficulties which I have had to encounter in the Machinery of my Department, the Coining press, have been the principal source of trouble, owing to some imperfections in their construction. I have been informed by the Director, as well as from other sources that many improvements have been made in the press at Philad; so as to obviate most of the difficulties to which they were at first liable. I had looked forward with much anxiety to the time of suspension this summer, with the view of going to Philad; for the purpose of examining fully the improvements they have made, or also of getting such other information as their long experience and abundant facilities would offer me. But as I am necessarily detained here on account of the Machinery, during the only time



I could have expected to visit Philad; I have  
to request that you will employ my Brother (who is  
now at the North) to spend 15 or 20 days in the  
Philad. Mount, and collect such information as  
the Director may think of the most importance  
to me. I perceive this source as possessing much  
utility, from the fact of my Brother's having  
been employed as foreman of my department during  
the past year, and of his expectation to bring  
his family out and remain here in the same ca-  
-pacity in future; besides he is a very competent  
person, and I know of no way by which the  
information we require could be so directly  
applied to the benefit of the Institution - It  
will be necessary to make some purchases  
in Philad. of files, steel &c, and if you  
think well of employing my Brother there  
he can make such selections as will best  
suit.

You can hear from him by addressing

Nelson Tyler

Springfield

Mass.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant

Signed P. B. Tyler

Comer



U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans  
Sept 6<sup>th</sup> 1840.

Sir,

We have rec<sup>d</sup> all the die mentioned in your letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> to wit: 2 pt. of 1/2 dollar, 2 pt. of dime and 2 pt. of 1/2 dime dies.

I enclose a copy of a communication from D<sup>r</sup> Hart, in reply to one from me making the inquiry contained in your letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> relative to the private assay asked for at our Mint. It will give you the information you desire upon that subject.

In a letter which I rec<sup>d</sup> yesterday from the Secretary of the Treasury, he says "It has been intimated to this Department, that much dissatisfaction has been expressed by the depositors of small sums for coinage with the Branch Mint at New Orleans. The complaint that their claims for repayment are postponed in favor of larger depositors." I can assure you, that for those complaints, there is not the slightest foundation. Mr. Woodbury adds that "the safest rule to be adopted, and adhered to rigidly, would seem to be, to pay for depositors in the order in which they are <sup>made</sup> ~~made~~." This has been our almost uniform



practice, as the records of the Mint will show.  
Whenever this rule, which is to be found in our instructions,  
from you, has been deviated from at all / which has  
very rarely happened / it has been in favor of the  
"small" and not the "larger" depositors. This fact  
our books will also substantiate. The truth is,  
that our largest depositors have, in almost every  
case been the Bankers. Their deposits have  
been in many instances, made at the request either  
of Cammack or myself, with a view of preventing  
any interruption in our coinage for the want of  
bullion. For repayment, they have generally  
expressed a willingness to wait our convenience  
and out of the amount received from their de-  
positors, it has not been infrequently the case,  
that "small depositors", after them, in point of  
date of deposit, have been paid first.

Our Mint suspended on the 26<sup>th</sup> ult., to resume again  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Oct. After paying every cent that we  
owe, we have a balance, in silver, of between three  
and four thousand dollars, and in gold, of upwards of  
thirty thousand.

R. M. Patterson Esq.  
Director of the Mint of the U.S.  
Phila.

Yr. obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
J. M. McKim  
Asst.



U. S. Branch Mint  
New Orleans Sept. 1. 1840

Sir;

I enclose our Statement for August, and  
have the honor to be

Very respectfully  
Yours obed<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

R. M. Patterson Esq<sup>r</sup>.

Director of the Mint  
of the U. S.

Phil<sup>a</sup>.

J. M. McKim,  
Supt.



Statement of the Deposits and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of  
August 1840

[illegible]

Branch Office of the United States, New Orleans.  
Treasurer's Office, August 31<sup>st</sup> 1840.

St. Hammack

The answer



Treasurers Office U. S. Cr. Mint  
New Orleans August 30. 1840

Sir

I have received your letter of the 17th, which came to hand some days ago, and I thank you for the trouble you are taking to assist me in establishing my sub. treasury accounts, &c.

Thus far I have kept every thing connected with my new duties, in all respects, distinct from the Mint. I have no instructions yet as to Clerks, porters, Stationary &c. and thus far I have got on with the assistance only of the Clerks & porters belonging to the Mint.

In a day or two I will furnish estimates for building the strong vaults which are required to have constructed. The vaults of this Mint, with the exception of one, lined inside with iron by Mr. Corstall, are very insecure. The walls are a brick and a half thick, and are built with common brick and common mortar. An architect, who examined them the other day, remarked that he could cut through any of them, in two hours time, with a pick knife.

I have written to Mr. Woodbury to ask him to permit three additional men to be engaged, on account of the Sub Treasury, in the night watch. The



The space to be guarded is so great that not less than  
three men can watch it successfully; and these  
remain on duty from 5 in the evening until the  
next ~~day~~ morning when relieved by the day watch.

The men we have are good & faithful men. but the  
duty is too hard. already have three men died  
in the service. others have left with constitutions  
ruined, and these we have here are suffering from the  
exposure.

The square on which the building  
is placed is enclosed by a <sup>low</sup> slight iron railing  
which could be vaulted, by expert individuals,  
with but little trouble.

Dr Riddell left here last Sunday and will be  
with you, no doubt, some days before the present reaches  
you.

The mint has stopped and all are busy in  
repairing, cleaning up &c. We have paid all  
of our depositors except three (amounting to \$325.03).

Who are out of town, and I have on hand in

Silver coins — about — \$4000

Gold coins — " — \$5000

I thank you for the hint about the word "day"  
I had not noticed it. It appears in the formula  
which you sent us and Mr. Wickes copied it.

I am with great respect

Your most faithful servant

H. C. Amman

Treasurer

To

Dr. R. M. Patterson

Director U.S. Mint



(Copy)

A. Sayer's Office B. M. N. O.

28 August 1840.

Sir,

In reply to your communication of yesterday I would observe, that the objects chiefly asked for at the Mint, and not in the regular routine of business, are always of the great variety of Mineral ores found in the mountainous ranges bounding the valley of the Mississippi: they have been brought or sent from every State and Territory on both sides of the river, from Iowa & Wisconsin in the North to Louisiana in the South. In analysing these ores Copper, Iron, Lead, Zinc, Tin, Antimony, Phosphorus &c have been discovered, and some of them, particularly the ores of Copper Lead and Tin were found to be unusually rich. One specimen of gold embedded in Quartz from the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas was brought here, and a richer specimen I should think was never seen. Silver has been discovered in several of the specimens, but in too small a quantity to be of value. Silver plate had been brought here, in two instances only, it had



just been received from New York, and found was expected.  
A certificate of the Standard was given with my  
signature, but no stamp was asked for, or used.

Considering the importance of developing the  
immense mineral resources of the Western Country, and  
such anxiety on the subject being manifested by the in=  
-habitants, it occurred to me that nothing would tend  
to make this Mint so popular as to gratify them  
on this subject, and from the commencement of the  
operation here in 1838, I have never refused to  
make an analysis of any metallic or mineral  
substance that was brought to the Mint, always  
giving a written statement of the result with  
my signature as Assayer of the Mint.

But these assays are often difficult,  
tedious and troublesome, occupying considerable time,  
they cost more than any of the processes employed  
in the regular operations of the Mint, for it is  
necessary to use a great many re-agents, besides  
the consumption of fuel and waste of acids, &  
they have increased so much of late, that I  
have no hesitation in saying, that whoever attends  
to the business, ought to be compensated, and  
that the United States should be reimbursed

to the amount of the actual expense incurred. That  
the act of the 19 May 1828 Sec 7. refers directly  
to this subject, I have not the smallest doubt.  
In conversing in relation to this matter with Dr.  
Riddell, and with a Frenchman who is a  
private Assayer, I have concluded that the  
charges should vary from \$5 to \$10. the amount  
charged, in every instance, to be equally divided  
between the person making the analysis, the Mint.  
Many instances must occur in which it would be  
improper to make any charge, as when an ignorant  
person has been deceived, and it can be ascertained  
in one or two minutes that an analysis is ne=  
-cessary.

With great respect

Y<sup>r</sup> ob<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Signed = Wm. P. Holst. Assay<sup>r</sup>.

P.S. Persons who have brought over here for  
analysis have uniformly expected to pay,  
and have tendered payment, although  
as yet nothing has been demanded.  
sig. H.

J. M. Kennedy Esq  
Sup<sup>r</sup> U.S. B. Mint  
N. Orleans



Mont N. S.

Aug. 25/40.

Sir,

In a letter to me, of the 27<sup>th</sup> ult., you ad-  
vert to the <sup>attention</sup> circumstances that the ~~Commiss~~ Mr. Tyler,  
of the stableman's estate, had ~~seemed~~ succeeded in settling  
and coming back of a melt which he had before re-  
jected as brittle, and which had been the cause of the  
difficulty between him and Dr. Roddick. In my  
answer to your letter, I mentioned that I would en-  
quire into the matter, of the Superintendent. I now  
send you a copy of his reply, which exculpates the  
Commiss in the fullest manner, by showing that the  
ingots rolled were <sup>rather</sup> ~~not~~ of the ~~two~~ <sup>first</sup> melts which gave  
rise to the dispute between him & the ~~stableman~~ <sup>Commiss</sup>,  
or of a subsequent third melt which had also been re-  
jected, but made part of a fourth melt, which  
had never been returned or rejected. It thus appears  
~~that an attempt was made to deceive you, for the~~  
~~purpose of injuring Mr. Tyler in your opinion.~~  
that the ground taken as proof of Mr. Tyler's in-  
sincerity or unfairness, and which was so <sup>well</sup> ~~calculated~~  
to injure him in your opinion, was utterly without  
foundation.

Wm. Levi Woodbury, Jr.  
Sec. of Treasury.

R. M. P.

D. C.



United S. Branch Mint New Orleans  
Treasurers Office Aug 28. 1840

Dear Sir

permit me to introduce to your  
acquaintance Dr S. L. Readell, Meltor & Refiner  
of this Mint, who leaves here this day for the  
purpose of making you a visit at Philadelphia.

Dr. Readell is so well known to you by  
reputation that I need not say more.

The operations of the Mint for some weeks past  
have been conducted with pleasantness &  
success. The Coinage has been up to this time  
31,000 in Silver and

40,000 in Gold.

Referring you to Dr Readell for particulars of  
our establishment here

I remain

most faithfully yours

H. C. Hammett

Treasr.

To  
Dr R. L. Patterson



Mint of the United States,  
Aug. 20. 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of <sup>sending</sup> ~~inclosing~~, by the present  
mail, to your address, a box of dies, directed on the inner  
envelope to the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at  
New Orleans, to be forwarded under your frank. Three

~~Three more boxes for the same Mint will be~~  
~~transmitted by the <sup>next</sup> three ~~next~~ mails.~~ More will  
be transmitted by the ~~three~~ <sup>three</sup> next mails.

J. F. M. P.  
Jr

To,  
Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Sec. of Treasury.



Mint of the United States,  
Aug. 20, 1840.

Sir,

I send, by the present mail, to the Secretary of the Treasury, to be forwarded to you under his frank, a box containing one pair of Half-dollar dies. There are now ready for your Mint another pair of  $\frac{1}{2}$  dollar ~~dies~~ dies, - 2 pairs of dimes, + 2 pairs of  $\frac{1}{2}$  dime dies: these will be transmitted, in the same way, by the next three mails.

I have the pleasure to thank you for your copy of your communication to the Secretary of the Treasury, on the subject of the expenditures at your Mint. I am always glad to be made acquainted with these matters, though my responsibility in the case is only indirect.

J. R. M. P.

Dear

To / }  
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq. }  
Asst. Dir. Mint, }  
New Orleans.



W. J. Branch Mint

16th O'Connell August 14. 1840

Sir,

I offer the following explanation, and enclosed reports from the Comer in reply to the inquiries in your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> ult:

1840 - 16 May - 1593 g of gold delivered to the Comer.

" 19 May - Returned entire (cracked in rolling)

" 29 May - 1947 g of gold } Delivered to Comer

" 9 June - 1266 do do }

" 15 June both deliveries returned entire (cracked in rolling)

The two first were the Melts which gave rise to that part of my letter to you of the 5<sup>th</sup> of June mentioning the conflicting opinions of the Melter and Comer in relation to the working of the gold, and the "unsuccessful attempts to roll which are so = cribed by Mr. Tyler". The third did not at that time for you will perceive by the dates been delivered.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of June there was another delivery of 2302 g of gold. It was the melt



from which the \$500 were coined) On that day I wrote Mr. Tyler the following note.

"If you find that the gold which was  
"delivered to you this morning will not work  
"it is my wish that you should make  
"no trial beyond the 10<sup>th</sup> ingot. If a counter-  
"feit result can be produced, even at the  
"cost of a little extra pains or trouble,  
"you will oblige me by taking it."

I rec<sup>d</sup> on the 23<sup>d</sup> of the same month from Mr. Tyler the report marked n<sup>o</sup> 1.

It was at this stage of the matter, that I at first thought of having some experiments tried with the gold, in my presence. I afterwards abandoned the idea for the reason I have already given you, and, as we had some gold certificates out which I was anxious to pay off, I requested Mr. Tyler to see, whether he could do any thing with the balance of the Melt which had remained in his possession, and had not been rejected, as the Secretary of the Treasury has been informed. After having done so, he sent me the report marked n<sup>o</sup> 2. The sure-  
= tary & informant might have been set right

in this matter upon application to the Melting Refiner himself, for, of the first report, I allowed that Officer to take a copy, and, the contents of the second I communicated to him verbally. In the two, you will, I think find answers to all your inquiries to which I have not directly replied.

I have read to Dr. Tiddell that part of your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> which relates to your mode of casting quarter eagle ingots. To my question whether he was in the habit of "stripping the wax in the midst, covering up the joints and increasing the heat of the Metal" he replied that he did not do so, because his melts were small. This circumstance then could not have been attended to in the Melt from which the \$500 were coined.

Dr. Hort has requested me to say to you, that he wants for his Department "one day over, a machine such as is used in Philadelphia for agitating, for in this climate the springs are continually giving way, causing a great expense, and



One cart<sup>on</sup> of pure nitric acid.

Very respectfully your  
Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

R. M. Patterson Esq  
Director of the Mint of  
the U. S. Phila.

J. McKim

P. S. I also enclose a copy of a note just  
rec<sup>d</sup> from Mr. Cammack in relation to our  
weights -

I cannot now anticipate that our gold  
coinage will suffer any farther interruption.  
40,000 Dollars have already been coined this  
month. This fact should go far, I think,  
towards inducing you to overlook our credit  
difficulties in that respect. I hope that  
my sending you copies of the reports which  
I rec<sup>d</sup> from Mr. Tyler during the existence  
of these difficulties, will not have the effect  
of preventing so desirable a termination of  
them. Justice alone to Mr. T. has induced  
me to counteract, as far as it was in my  
power, whatever injury he might sustain, by  
an ex parte representation.



(Copy)

U. States Mint, New Orleans  
Treasurer's Office, August 13<sup>th</sup> 1840

Dear Sir

We have in the Mint only one set of weights, for the use of all the Officers, which causes great trouble, inconvenience, and frequent delay in the operations, besides subjecting us to inaccuracies, by having them at the disposal of so many different persons. I therefore beg to ask you to request another set to be sent for the use of this Mint.

The law of 17<sup>th</sup> May 1828, requires, that the weights employed in the transactions of the Mint, shall be regulated at least once a year, and their accuracy tested in the presence of the Assay Commissioners, on the day of annual assay. I infer, therefore, that the weights now here, will have to be sent to Philadelphia, which will render it necessary to procure new ones.

I am very respectfully

Yours &c. &c.

(Signed) H. C. Cannon  
Treasurer

Joseph M. Kennedy Esq  
Supt. U. S. Mint



(11.2.)  
/ Copy /

United States Branch Mint  
New Orleans - Coiner's Office

July 18. 1840

To / J. M. Ames, Esq }  
Superintendent.

Sir,

Agreeable to your request, I have worked as far as practicable the gold in my possession, and find that the experiments reported to you were a fair test of its ductility. About one half was rejected in the first operation of rolling, the best of the remainder being selected in the subsequent operations, there remained sufficient to make about \$8000, which was attended with much trouble and waste through every operation.

Very respectfully

Your faithful servant

Signed - P. B. Tyler

Coiner.



Mint U. S.

Aug. 12/49.

Sir,

Your report for July was received by me this morning. It is quite satisfactory, although we have to regret the accident which diminished the amount of gold coinage.

The <sup>17th</sup> act of July 19th, 1828, authorizes the assay, at the mint, of bullion not intended for coinage, at rates of charge and under regulations to be established by the Director. At this mint it has not been judged expedient to take advantage of the authority thus granted. It has been deemed ~~advisable~~ <sup>unadvisable</sup> to introduce any system of perquisites, for officers or men; any allowance, of any kind, for work done in the Mint and to ask extra ~~official~~ duties of either, without <sup>extra</sup> pay, would be ~~equally~~ <sup>hardly</sup> improper. In some cases, of interest, assays are made here for individuals, but this is rare, and no charge has ever been made. Such is the custom and such has been the feeling at this mint. I do not know, however, that a different course may not be advisable at your institution. To be satisfied on this point, I would be glad to be informed what are the kind of assays asked for at your mint.



Are they of bullion, or of silver plate? Are they asked for by the market in silver & gold, and, if so, do they ask for a stamp to authenticate the quality? I have reason to believe that the ~~act~~ law in question was intended to apply to this kind of business. If there is a prospect of business enough, of this kind, to make the <sup>st</sup> ~~fundamental~~ worth Dr. Hoar's funding, I would be glad to know what charge, for assaying, would, in his judgment pay for the labor & expense, and what proportion should go to the assayer for the materials used. I have not given this matter consideration, because our Assayers have objected to the introduction of extra-monetary assays.

Should add, that we are frequently called upon for analyses of ores, and that they are sometimes made. But this is always at the free choice of the assayers, and without charge and is ~~not~~ <sup>entirely</sup> ~~unofficial~~ <sup>unofficial</sup> labor.

R. M. P.

To J. M. Kennedy, Esq.,  
Supt. Br. Mint,  
New Orleans.

P. S. — I wrote the above without having your letter before me, and I now find, on a re-perusal of it, that I had not a correct impression of the question proposed by Dr. Hoar. I am quite surprised to learn that he is troubled with private assays to such an extent as to make the cost to the Mint, "by no means inconsiderable." This ought not to be, for his own sake, and it is certainly in his own power to prevent it. I am still desirous to have a reply to my inquiries, although they were made under a wrong impression as to the proposal made by Dr. Hoar.



Mont. U. S. —

Aug. 12 / 59.

Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 1st inst.

I thank you for the information you communicate as to your expenditures and accounts, for although these are only very indirectly under my control, I am interested to know the condition of your night in all points.

I feared you would be embarrassed as to the establishment of your Subtreasury, and had a set of our forms ready to send you, then we received a second series of instructions from the Department entirely at variance with the first, and which rendered our first books and forms useless. To avoid a recurrence of this evil, I sent a set of our forms to Washington for approbation, and, when my letter is answered, I will immediately send the set to you. In the course which you have adopted, you have, in my judgment, committed a mistake. I have <sup>advised</sup> ~~adopted~~ it as a first principle in the management of the Subtreasury, that it is to be kept, in all respects, distinct from the Mint. It must have distinct accounts and books, a distinct vault, and a distinct



clock. As to the last point you will be embarrassed by the inadequate salary allowed, and I know not how you are to get over the difficulty. Perhaps the Secretary will allow the plan proposed in your letter, and make the \$800 a payment for ~~your~~ the services, in the Subtreasury, attended by your private clerk; but if you could get a separate clerk at \$800 it would be better.

The <sup>Secretary's</sup> instructions of the 9th of July tell you explicitly to ~~charge~~ <sup>debit</sup> yourself with all sums received on account of the Treasury of the United States, and credit yourself with all payments made by his order, and no other. — I warn you not to be led astray by this instruction. You are, or will be, Subsequently told to open the account thus:

Dr. The Treasurer of the U.S., in account with the Treasurer of the Branch at New York (acting as Subtreasurer.) Cr. ~~from~~

When you see that you are, in fact, to debit and credit the Treasurer of the U.S., and not yourself.

I have, on my application to this effect, received instructions, which are extended also to your clerk, authorizing the receipt of all deposits of foreign coins made in the

Subtreasury. The Loan Profit and Loss Account is, however, as in the case of your own clerk funds, to be a Maist and not a Subtreasury account, as the nominal amount, by tale, of this last, is not to be changed. I will send you, with the other forms, that which we have adopted for the Warrant to be employed in this case.

R. M. P.

D.

H. C. Carmichael, Esq.  
Treasurer of Branch at New York,  
at New Orleans.

P.S. — The word say, introduced into your monthly statements, gives to the items an air of supposition, as if they were fictitious examples in a formal account; and I suppose this may, in fact, be its origin, and that it may have been derived from us. Let me suggest the propriety of omitting it henceforward.



Mont. W. L.

Aug. 7th, 1840.

Sir,

In my letter to you of the 3d inst., I told you that I would consult the Secretary of the Academy as to the propriety of giving a temporary leave of absence, to the new operation officer of your clinic. I have just received his answer, in which he says.

"I approve of <sup>your</sup> suggestion, [in good faith] and I advise you that Messrs. Tyler & Riddell have leave to make a visit to the clinic at Philadelphia, provided it can be done during the suspension of work at New Orleans, and that the parties choose to make it at their own expense."

It is not perhaps a very liberal invitation to ask Dr. Riddell to visit us at his own cost, but, if it be not inconvenient to him to leave home under this condition, and if his other occupations permit it, I think that a week or two days could be spent by him, at our clinic, very advantageously. He would besides have it in his power to hold communications with some fellow naturalists of distinction, - Nuttall, Lea, &c., - and might thus gain a double advantage and a



death platform from his visit

R. M. P.

L

W/ J. M. Kennedy, Esq.  
Sup. Br. & Coast,  
New Orleans



Treasury Department  
August 5<sup>th</sup> 1860.

Sir,

Your several communications dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> instant have been received - and I approve of your suggestion contained in one of them - viz. that Messrs. Tyler & Riddell have leave to make a visit to the Mint at Philadelphia, provided it can be done during the suspension of work at N. Orleans and the parties choose to make it at their own expense. I trust you may be able to return without any thing more in doubt as to either.

Very Respectfully

Samuel Wood  
Secy. of the Treasury.

S. R. M. Patterson  
Director of the Mint  
Philadelphia.

P.S. I enclose a letter received from the U.S. Consul at Vienna & send you a draft by the same mail, the package to which he refers. This Consul having no account with the Govt. cannot have his expenditures reimbursed in the usual way by deposit to the credit of the Treasurer U.S. How can we assist him



the amount in a bill of exchange or otherwise here to draw on you as may  
be considered best. ...

from us we are ready to meet ...



U. S. Branch Mint  
New Orleans Aug 5. 1840

Sir,

I send you, according to promise, a copy of my  
report to the Secretary of the Treasury, on  
the subject of the expenditures at this Mint  
for Out houses, Marble Mantels and furni-  
-ture, and have the honor to be

Very respectfully

J<sup>r</sup> faithful Serv<sup>t</sup>  
J. McKim  
Asst. Dir.

A. M. Patterson Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Director Mint U. S.  
Phil<sup>a</sup>



/Cope/

U. S. Branch Mint  
New Orleans, July 29<sup>th</sup> 1840.

Sir,

The delay which has taken place between the receipt of your communication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant, and this reply, has been occasioned by my having been by you directed to state whether the expenditures of Messrs. Postall and Cummack, the late and present Treasurers of this Branch Mint, under the heads of Out-Houses, Furniture, Marble Mantels &c. had been made with a due regard to economy. This required a knowledge on my part, of the prices paid for each item, coming under those heads, and a consequent examination of numerous papers and accounts.

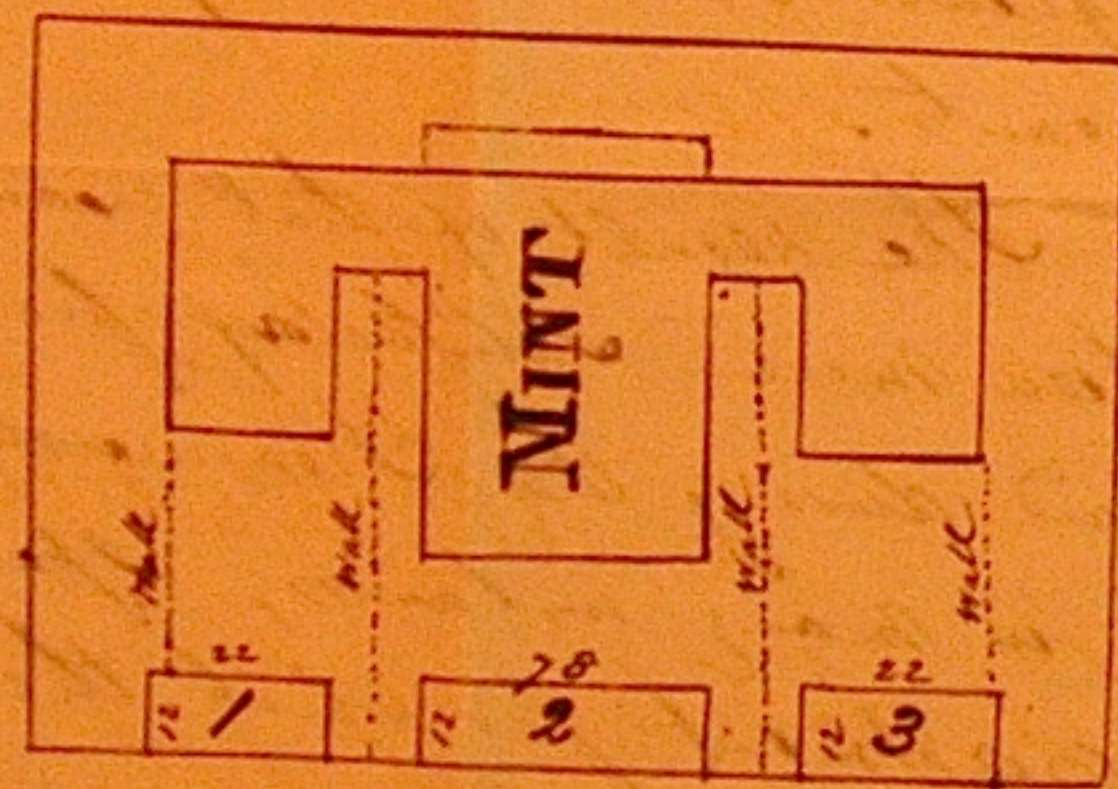
The result of that examination might have been more satisfactory for this reason. The bills paid during the Treasurership of Mr. Postall do not, in many instances, specify the particular Department for which those expenditures for Mantels and Furniture were incurred. On the other hand as no light on that head, could be obtained from the present Officers of the Mint, they



not having been in it at the time these articles were purchased, it has been impossible, in many cases, to identify them, and ascertain the cost of each. All the information it has been in my power to obtain on the subject, I now have the honor to lay before you.

#### Out Houses.

They consist of three buildings, placed on the South side of the Square upon which the Mount is erected. They are composed entirely of bath-rooms and privies, are marked on the following sketch 1, 2, and 3, and were built under the authority of the late Sup.<sup>t</sup> W. Bradford.



Nos 1 and 3 measured, each 22 feet in length by 12 feet in width, are covered with slate,

and contain, each, two privies, and two bath rooms. They are also 10 feet high in the clear. No 2 is 78 feet long and 12 feet wide, contains 5 bath rooms, and 10 small privies, has also a slate roof, and is of the same height. The amount of the contract for putting up these buildings, including the painting, and the yard walls, the whole extent of which is 306 feet in length by 8 feet in height, was \$4600. I do not think it was unreasonable. The sum of \$1600. was also expended upon those buildings, viz. contract with Clay & Clark, Plumbers, for bath, water closets, cisterns &c. / the whole lined with zinc / and a considerable length of leaden pipes. This work, which is of an expensive nature, was also authorized by Mr. Bradford, and does not appear to me to have been overcharged.

#### Marble Mantels.

I find them to correspond, in number, with those charged in the bill. There are altogether 16, the cost of them ranging between fifty and ninety dollars. They all have their



grates, the price of which also varies from 30 to 55¢.

It cannot be denied that the original cost of wooden mantels, would have been considerably less, but as they are constantly requiring paint, and other repairs, I look upon the purchase of Marble ones as an economy "in the long run." They also correspond better with the style of the building, and the prices paid for them I do not consider extravagant. They, now, with one exception, purchased under the authority of the late Superintendent.

Referring, at the time of my appointment, my own residence to one in the Mint, the apartments to which I was entitled, I gave up to Mr. Carmack. That gentleman applied to me, to sanction certain alterations that he was desirous of making in the premises.

Fearing that the magnitude of the expense to be incurred thereby, might be found fault with by yourself, I referred the matter to the Director of the Mint in Philadelphia.

Dr. Patterson replied as follows:



"I have been embarrassed by the application made  
"on behalf of Mr. Cammack for alterations in his  
"apartment at the Mint, so much am I afraid  
"of additional expenses at this time. If you  
"deem the alterations necessary however, and  
"think they cannot be conveniently postponed,  
"I presume you would be justified in providing  
"for the comfortable accommodation of the  
"Treasurer, whose residence at the Mint is  
"very desirable for the public service."

Under this authority the alterations were allowed,  
and the purchase of one Marble Mantel,  
that constituting the exception already mentioned,  
was permitted by me. It's price was \$60.

#### Furniture.

I will beg leave to state, that this furniture  
has been paid for, not out of the appropriations  
for the "Building & Machinery" of the Mint,  
but has been charged either to "Contingent &  
"Incidental expenses" or to account of  
"Apparatus Tools and Disturbed." You have  
already on file in your Department the bills  
for furniture that were paid by Mr. Postall.



These paid in account of purchases under that  
head, made since Mr. Gammon's appointment  
were transmitted by that office with his last  
quarterly accounts. I enclose a list of all  
the furniture now in the different offices in  
the Mint. Mr. C. has gone to his expense, that  
was either useless or too great, and so far as  
the furniture purchased under the authority  
of Mr. Bradford can be identified from its  
description in the accounts, the charges therefor  
do not appear to me to be unfair.

In answer to your last inquiry,  
I have the honor to state, that all the officers  
of the Mint reside therein, with the exception  
of myself.

Very respectfully

J. C. Senant

Signed J. P. Kennedy, Supt.

Hon. Sec. Treasury

Sec. of the Treasury.



List of Furniture in the Office of the different Departments of  
the United States Branch Mint at New Orleans.

Superintendent's Office

One Bureau or Secretary  
Six Mahogany Chairs  
One Mahogany Office Chair  
One Hat & Clothes Rack  
One Carpet & one Rug  
One Table with Cloth Cover  
One portable writing desk  
One Bust of Edward Livingston

Treasurer's Office

One Standing Counting House Desk for Clerk  
One Mahogany Desk for Treas.  
One Mahogany Book Case  
One Mahogany Table with Cloth cover  
One Hat & Clothes Rack  
One Mahogany Office <sup>Chair</sup> & One Duck Stool  
Two Mahogany Chairs  
One Mahogany Railing, to enclose the Desks & Book Case  
Three Mahogany Cases for Collections of Coins  
One Carpet & one Rug  
Two Spittoons

Weighing Room



Weighing Room

Two Scales and One Book Case  
Two Tables  
Four Mahogany Chairs  
One Counter  
Two Maps (Mitchell's Map of the World Map of South)  
Two Spitoons

Coiner's Office

One double Office Desk (Mahogany)  
Six Mahogany Chairs  
Two Tables (One with Cloth Cover)  
One Counter

Melting & Refining Office

One Front Lin Stone, Shovel, Tongs & Polier  
One Office Table  
One Mahogany Arm Chair  
Four Mahogany Chairs  
One portable Desk

Melting Room

One Table  
One Desk

Inside Gallery

One dozen cane bottom Chairs  
Three Maps

Assayer's department

Two Iron Stoves  
Three large Cupboards  
One large Desk  
Two Small Common Tables  
One large solid table for assay balance &c  
One dozen cane bottom Chairs  
One dozen Common Chairs  
One Mahogany Office Chair  
Oil Cloth covering for Weighing Room  
One large Cistern  
Stands for the humid assay, apparatus, Shelves &c



Must M.S.  
Sept. 3/44.

Sir,

In a letter from the Superintendent of the Sullivan Plant, of the 20th ult., he states, on the authority of a report from the Coiner, that certain repairs in the machinery, and especially in the steam engine, will render necessary a suspension of the ordinary work of that Mill, for three or four weeks.

At the season of the year, when very little business is done at Sullivan, this may not give rise to any serious inconvenience.

Mr. Kennedy also mentions that it is the desire of Mr. Tyler to take advantage of this ~~interference~~ suspension of work, to make a visit to the Mill here, and he consults me as to the propriety of his granting the required leave of absence. I am somewhat embarrassed by this question, because there is unhappily a party-feeling in that Mill, (I do not mean political,) and every movement on the part of the officers may be made a cause of accusation. On the other hand, I do sincerely think that it would be more desirable that both Mr. Tyler and Dr. Willard should



should pass a few days with us here, and  
interview the several operations, ~~by which they~~  
have been an imperfect acquaintance with  
which seems to <sup>have</sup> been the origin of the troubles  
and misunderstandings at the A. C. Alliance.

It would prove good to me, consenting  
to such a visit, (if they choose to make  
it, at their own cost,) would remove the  
possibility of its being used to their own  
injury, while I believe it would be a real  
and permanent advantage to their institution.

A. M. P.

I

To  
Attn. Louis Woodbury,  
Sec. of Am.



Mint N.S.

Aug. 3 /41.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th ult., with the enclosed copy of a report made to you by the Commissioner, on the subject of repairs required in his department, and which are such as would require an interruption of the regular office work at the Mint. Being on the spot, you can best judge of the necessity of these repairs, and it certainly lies within your discretion to authorize them. If your operations must be interrupted, this is no doubt the season at which a suspension would be the least injurious.

~~It is matter of great delicacy~~

I am somewhat embarrassed by your question as to Mr. Tyler's anticipated request for leave of absence. The proposition has its dark and its bright side. He is now under jealous surveillance, and ~~his~~ the interruption in your ordinary operations may be imputed to his absence, instead of its being the cause and excuse for that absence. In the present state of things, you must all be very cautious. On the other hand, a week spent at this Mint might be of great importance



to Mr. Tyler, ~~as many~~ accounts. I wish  
Dr. Riddell could also pay us a visit. I  
nearly believe that the benefit ~~of~~ to your  
institution from such ~~see~~ visits, would fully  
compensate for the interruption even if this were  
not rendered necessary by the state of the  
machinery.

In reply, I think it best to consult  
the Secretary of the Treasury as to this point.  
I will let you know his answer.

The dis. called for by Mr. Tyler are  
advised.

A. M. P.

I

W

Mr. Mr. Kennedy, Esq.

Sup. Br. Court,

New Orleans.



United States Branch Mint, New Orleans  
Treasurer's Office, August 1<sup>st</sup> 1846

Sir,

I have before me your letter of 26<sup>th</sup> June and J. Chaly, receipt of the first of which I have already acknowledged. We now make the charge of one third of a cent per ounce on all Silver deposits made for small coins, for toughening.

Mr. Kennedy has written to Mr. Woodbury, in answer to his inquiries on the subject of the expenses for building, Machinery &c. A short time ago, I forwarded to you a copy of my expenditures under this head. It is to be regretted I drew any thing on this account, and that I had not charged these bills to Contingencies, but I had no one to direct or advise me, and followed in the errors, if errors they be, of my predecessor. There was no record here to show the state of that appropriation, and I supposed for some time, that there was a surplus fund, which could be used at pleasure. Most of the letters addressed to this Mint, were called for in the recent investigation, and we are, no doubt, deprived of information that would have been useful. My accounts for Contingent and ordinary expenses, were forwarded before I received your letter of 7<sup>th</sup> ultimo, you have credit in this quarter, for expenses incurred by you. We have received no funds since I mentioned the subject to you last, our Workmen & creditors regret very much, that the movements necessary to get funds here are so slow. Enclosed is a copy of my account current of ordinary expenses for the last quarter. One Thousand Dollars



of the Contingent fund, were paid to Mr. Shill.

I have received as a depositary, about \$5000 of public money, <sup>but</sup> as yet I have no instructions as to the mode of keeping the accounts, forms of returns &c. I presume that I am to pass the moneys received and paid, through the Bullion Sledge. I will be much obliged to you, if you will inform me what alterations &c. are made by the Treasurer of the Mint in Philadelphia. His experience will enable him to make easily, any changes that may be required, while the distance we are from Washington, and the occasional failure of the mails, requires a considerable delay in getting information when asked. Nothing has been said to me about Clarke, yet. The salary for Clarke is not enough, to secure the services in this place, of a capable and trustworthy person, and I do not know how I can manage. If I am to be allowed two additional Clerks, I would rather have one, and add the salary of the second one to the salaries of the present Clerk & Wighmaster, if such a course would be approved of by the department. Your suggestions on any thing connected with my office will be gladly received, and I will consider it a particular favor if you will write to me, with such information as you may think will be useful.

I am very respectfully

Your Obedt. Servant,

Hebammack

Secy.

Dr. R. M. Patterson  
Director U. S. Mint  
Philadelphia



U. S. Branch Mint  
New Orleans, August 2<sup>d</sup> 1840

Sir,

I send you our Statement for July, which was handed to me yesterday evening by the Treasurer. The gold coinage would have been considerably larger but for an accident which happened to the Machinery on the 30<sup>th</sup> of the month, and could not be repaired in time, to enable us to embrace in <sup>that quantity</sup> ~~it~~ planchets amounting to something like \$15,000, which were ready for stamping.

Dr. West has requested me to consult you, upon the propriety of charging for assays entirely unconnected with our operations. He is frequently called upon for that purpose, and these assays are attended with a cost to the Mint, which is by no means inconsiderable. The Doctor thinks that a charge should be made, sufficient at least to cover our own expenses.

I forwarded, on the 29<sup>th</sup> ult., my report to the Secretary of the Treasury, on



the subject of our Out house, Marble Mantel  
Furniture &c., of which I promised you a copy  
I will send it to you in a day or two.

I am Sir

with great respect

Yr faithful servant

R. M. Patterson Esq

Director of the Mint of the  
U. S.

Phil<sup>a</sup>

J. McKim  
Sep<sup>r</sup>



Statement of the deposits and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of July, 1840.

Deposites						Coinage			
Kind of Deposit	Grass Weight	Standard	Value before deductions	Value after deductions	Total Value before deductions	Denomination	Number of pieces	Value	Total Value
	millings	Weight							
	Centes den	Centes den	Dollars ct	Dollars ct	Dollars ct			Dollars ct	Dollars ct
Gold:						Gold:			
Foreign Coins, say	29476	285710	531551	531551	531551	Quarter Eagles, say	3400	8500 00	8500 00
Silver:						Silver:			
Foreign Bullion, say	6420	7104	8266	8245		Half Dollars, say	97000	48500 00	
Foreign Coins, "	55522 60	55610 25	64709 95	64703 26		Dimes, "	55000	5500 00	
					64792 61	Half Dimes, "	130000	6500 00	
							275433		55500 00
Total deposits					70108 12	Total Coinage			67000 00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans.

Treasurer's Office, July 31<sup>st</sup> 1840

McCammer

Treasurer



Mint U. S.  
July 30, 1870.

Sir,

I send you herewith a copy of the directions, prepared by Mr. Peale formerly Mint Officer, for the management of gold deposits at the Branch Mints. This is the paper referred to in my letter of the 27th ult. It is probable that Mr. Maxwell retains the copy for your mint, and that it may not have found its place in your files, and therefore not have got into Dr. Riddell's hands. It is not as explicit as I had supposed, but it must be remembered that it was written as a memorandum for officers who had witnessed, at this Mint, the operations in detail. If there be any points on which Dr. Riddell wishes explanations or instructions, they will be cheerfully & promptly furnished.

In your letter of the 12th inst. you say, "Mr. Tyler, I am happy to inform you, has been able to work about \$8000 of the last melt of gold." It has become necessary for me to ask you some questions as to this matter. In the first place, then, I wish to know if this was the whole amount of the melt, and if not, what proportion of it. - Secondly, if any of the ingots of this melt were not rolled, why were they rejected?



Was some more ductile than others? - Thirdly, was this one of the Melts before rejected by Mr. Tyler? If so, how did it happen that it again came into his hands, and was rolled? Was it rolled readily, or with difficulty? Was particular precaution necessary in the operation, - such as very frequent passing through the rolls, and very frequent annealing? Was this the melt, the unsuccessful attempts to roll which are described by Mr. Tyler? - Any other information that you may possess on this subject, I will thank you to communicate.

I ask these questions in consequence of a suggestion made by the Secretary of the Treasury, with whom, the rolling of a melt of ingots which had been previously rejected, has been made a ground of censure upon the Officer, "against whom some informal complaints had been made to him."

Please to inform Dr. Riddell, that in casting quarter-eagle ingots, we are generally, if not always, under the necessity of stopping the work in the midst, covering up the pots, and increasing the heat of the metal, which has become too much chilled by the exposure. If this is neglected, the last ingots are spoiled.

Was this circumstance attended to in the

Melt above referred to, - which I understand to have been of quarter-eagle ingots?

J. R. M.D.  
Director.

To  
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.  
Asst. Dir. Mint,  
New Orleans.



Note of operations sent to the Branch  
Ministry of the reaction States in the Matter of  
Refiners Department

When Gold has been received from the Treasurer, and duly entered in the Mollat's Requiris Book, noting its description, <sup>number</sup>, Grop and Standard weight, and the quality and Standard lot of Silver contained when the latter is reported, the first operation is to determine from the assay report and its appearance, character, &c. the <sup>gold</sup> ~~character~~ <sup>of the gold</sup>, straight or adulterated, above say of them classes its belong-  
ing, according to the preceding table indicating the respective properties,  
and according to the results of the operations  
which it may require to ascertain.

1<sup>st</sup> Ready for melting. Being suitable for water

2<sup>nd</sup> ~~Like~~ <sup>Post</sup> ~~Post~~ Requiring to be Printed

3<sup>e</sup> ~~Robert Bingham~~ de de Congham

The first is ready to form a <sup>for silver</sup> spot on ~~any~~ <sup>or gold</sup> part of a pot ~~that~~ <sup>it is</sup> its weight with the necessary alloy, the latter to <sup>consist</sup> be as near as may be  $\frac{1}{4}$  ~~finer~~, <sup>it is</sup> if contained in the gold it must be added to the alloy so as to make or form that proportion—

The second operation, is as follows. The quantity of Silver having been Gold and Silver or Silver containing Gold must be added to the quantity necessary to form a pot, in proportion. That vary according to the quantity of Silver on hand. If the latter is large 5 or 6 times the tot<sup>al</sup> of Gold may be added, but the most desirable proportion is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  or  $4$  to one. The whole is then melted and well stirred in a black lead Crucible of a capacity indicated by N<sup>o</sup> 25 or 30. and poured in a small stream into Gold water. This operation is technically called granulation and divides the metal in minute parts.







Chloride of Silver thus formed is washed with  
warm water until it is perfectly free from  
acid taste, when ~~Phosphoric~~ <sup>Hydrochloric</sup> acid is added  
in such a quantity that Sulphuric acid is poured  
the three substances are decomposed, and the  
Silver appears in metallic form. Next <sup>nitric</sup> acid  
is then added to remove the surplus the <sup>nitric</sup> ~~the~~  
which is a loss - the whole is carefully  
~~washed in warm water~~ <sup>washed</sup> in a metallic  
filter, and then melted with a strong quantity  
of Potash & potash and yields pure Silver  
& 996 Millecun. of the assay -

The Crucibles, ashes, and all other  
matters with which the Metals have been  
in contact, are then to be ground or pulverized  
in a mortar and sifted in riddles of different  
grades to separate the grains and the fine  
dust resulting is washed with care to concentrate  
the metallic substance. Silver is then ~~separated~~ <sup>separated</sup>  
with Nitric, Potash, & Sulphuric & Carbonic  
Potash and Muric of Soda and Potassium  
Bromide - and the result refined or separated  
as the case may require -



(Confidential.)

Miss M. J.

July 29 /40.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th inst.

I had received Dr. E. M. Barton's letter, and had answered it. The defence of an <sup>apparent</sup> ~~abstract~~ muscular force in <sup>support</sup> ~~proof~~ of moral and official integrity is too absurd, may receive favor among certain portions of the community with which he associates, and may be dignified by the name of public opinion, but <sup>such conduct</sup> ~~it is not~~ the least a moral deformity, and will never receive my approbation, or (I am sure I may add) yours. —

The slander to which I alluded in my <sup>communication</sup> ~~report~~ to you sent yesterday, <sup>(and which I cannot not repeat in a public document)</sup> was an assertion by Dr. MacCarthy that Dr. Riddell had been the murderer of his wife, who died not long since at the Mint. For so gross and <sup>premeditated</sup> ~~unprovoked~~, a man may be deemed to take personal vengeance, and I should not be disposed to pass heavy judgment upon his conduct. I should not be so absurd, however, as to think he had raised his character by it.

Mr. Kennedy, in a letter of the 12th inst., writes as follows: — "Mr. Taylor, I am happy to inform you, has been able to work about \$8000



of the last melt of gold. Dr. Riddell requests  
me to say that the process followed by you in  
the preparation of gold, and which was explained  
(in your words) in a communication formerly  
sent to ~~the~~ this Board, has now come to his hands.  
He has taken a copy of the general views of  
it which you have given me in yours of the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
ult. I trust we shall now get along better.

The first part of the extract requires ex-  
planation. <sup>for which I am sorry</sup> Whether the language and the amount  
would lead me to think that the whole melt  
was rolled. The quantity would make about a  
third or a fourth part of one of our melts.

Was the remainder unfit for rolling? This could  
only happen from bad casting, <sup>but with inexperienced</sup>  
hands <sup>or by bad casting</sup> ~~or by bad casting~~ <sup>or by bad casting</sup> ~~or by bad casting~~ <sup>or by bad casting</sup>  
we have generally to melt the quantity in the night, before  
the first and give a great heat to the melt. If this is completed, the  
melt will be <sup>perfectly</sup> fit to roll ingots, by small  
degrees and frequent annealing, which a  
Coiner might, notwithstanding, be justified  
in rejecting.

The last part of the extract convinces me  
that the Master was not acquainted with the  
process to be followed in order to make ductile  
alloys of gold. In one of his letters he as-  
serts that the gold must have been ductile,  
because ~~because~~ the ingots were made out of  
fine gold obtained from the process of pan

ting. Nothing can be more fallacious than  
this inference. If perfectly ductile fine gold  
be melted down with perfectly ductile copper  
in the proportion necessary to <sup>bring</sup> ~~bring~~ it to our  
standard, the ingots thus formed will always  
be found brittle, - sometimes exceedingly so.  
This is one of the mysteries of the art, which I  
am unable to explain, and of which Dr. Riddell  
seems to have been ignorant. - I take the  
liberty of sending him with a copy of my letter  
to Mr. Kennedy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ult., a perusal  
of which will show you how <sup>entirely</sup> ~~entirely~~ naturally  
all Dr. Riddell's difficulties <sup>as to the ingots</sup> may have arisen.

As to the question of Mr. Tyler's compe-  
tence and fidelity, I must refer you to my  
letters of the 21<sup>st</sup> of March and 21<sup>st</sup> of April, the  
latter enclosing a letter from Mr. Kennedy and a  
note from Mr. Cammash. Upon that Mr.  
Tyler has inherited from his brother the animosity  
of <sup>some</sup> ~~the~~ individuals connected with the former  
regime of the New Orleans Mint, and that they  
must be using their exertions to injure him,  
without just and sufficient cause. Mr.  
Tyler & Dr. Riddell are both deficient in  
experience, but they have the ~~knowledge~~  
general knowledge of their respective depart-  
ments, and the <sup>aptitude</sup> ~~talent~~, to make them



good officers, if they can only be encour-  
aged to cooperate together in peace.  
I am about this desirable end I have  
urged it upon Mr. Kennedy to also urge  
on him to bring about this most desirable  
end.

A. M. P.

I

To  
Hon. Levi Woodbury  
Sec. of Treasury.

Aug. 29. 1840.

Sec. of Treasury.



Philadelphia. July 28th, 1849.

Dear Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 17th inst., on the subject of the difficulties into which Dr. Riddell has brought himself.

In answer, I beg to assure you, in the first place, that my propositions were strongly in favor of your friend. It was a real gratification to me to be able to recommend to the office which he fills, a man of science, - a successful teacher of chemistry, - a gentleman naturalist whose love of knowledge <sup>led him</sup> to search after it in the wilds of Texas.

In the execution of his duties, I have no reason to believe that Dr. Riddell has shown great <sup>industry</sup> ~~activity~~, zeal, and integrity. He possesses many of the ~~valuable~~ qualities required for a valuable officer. He would be all we could desire, if to these he added a <sup>more</sup> conciliating disposition, - a willingness to yield something for the sake of peace, even where he considered himself right.

The resort to muscular force in proof of integrity of mind and character is a practice too utterly absurd for argument. It may be the fashion in some places and among some







Albany, N. Y.

July 28/49.

Sir,

I received yesterday your letter of the 12th inst., and I received, at the same time, ~~for my report~~ <sup>from the Secretary of the Treasury, Dr. Piddell's reply to, and explanation of, the charges</sup> proposed against <sup>him</sup>, as to certain recent transactions at your mint. I have given to the Secretary my report on this matter, and he will probably, at a very early day, send to you the decision let you know the course which government will pursue in the case. In the mean while, it may relieve your mind to be told that, in my opinion, there will be no further action taken with regard to <sup>Dr. Piddell's</sup> ~~him~~. And now, <sup>his</sup> cannot peace be restored to your establishment? I know that you will spare no pains to bring about an end so desirable. You have had the discretion to avoid becoming a party in the disputes, and this circumstance must add great force to your official influence.

The <sup>large</sup> ~~enormous~~ expenditures at your mint building &c., far ~~entirely~~ beyond the contracts, have produced great astonishment. I know that many of them were necessary, but yet I fear that a due regard to economy has



not always govern those who had the control  
of the expenditures. The greater part, of  
indeed almost the whole, of this responsibility  
must rest however, upon your judgements  
in office.

You are to be yourself the judge of  
the time which it is necessary for you to  
spend at the Mint daily, for the full and  
satisfactory performance of your duties, and  
it need not, ~~of course~~, be the same as that  
required of the officers who have no business to  
superintend, and ~~believe to guard~~ ~~the~~ ~~Mint~~ ~~pre~~ ~~ceded~~ ~~in~~ ~~deposits~~ ~~to~~ ~~receive~~  
and pay. — It is impossible for me even  
to advise you as to the time that should  
be spent. This must necessarily be left  
to your own sense of responsibility. I  
hope that no intrigues are at work affecting  
you, or aiming to make your situation  
uncomfortable. God preserve your Mint  
from false friends.

A.M. P.

Wm. M. Kennedy, Esq.  
Sup. Br. Mint  
St. Louis



For consideration of the Treasury Department  
received at the Department July 27, 1840, 1840  
and the same was referred to the  
proper authorities for their consideration  
and report.

Transmitted on Saturday, for your  
examination a communication received from  
Dr. Riddell accompanied by documents & explanation  
of the charges against him as Mint Refiner at the  
Branch Mint at N. Orleans. And I have received a copy  
of a letter addressed to you by Dr. E. H. Barton which I  
send herewith lest the original should not have been received  
by you.

I take occasion to call your attention particularly  
to one point in the case - It is stated, that the Coiner had  
succeeded in coining some of the bars from a melt of Gold  
at first objected to by him as being too brittle. If such  
be the fact, and Dr. Riddell's explanations in relation to that  
matter are satisfactory, does it not necessarily follow that  
censure attaches to the Coiner for his conduct.

I mention this in order to suggest whether in giving  
the case your consideration it would not be well  
to:



Very Respectfully

Sam. Washburn

George

: 51



Min. of the United States  
July 27, 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> inst., ~~trans-~~mitting a communication from Dr. J. L. Riddell, in reply to, and explanation of the charges preferred against him as editor and Refiner of the Brunet at St. Louis, to go this with the documents which accompanied it.

I have given a careful attention to these documents, as well as to other communications received by me on the same subject; and I proceed to communicate to you the impressions left on my mind.

First, as to the attack made on MacCarthy, though I still think it ~~was~~ most improper and ill-advised, I must acknowledge that the provocation was very great, and Dr. Riddell's letter to me of the 25<sup>th</sup> of June, ~~(which is in the documents)~~ presents <sup>a</sup> picture in this quarrel unknown to me before, and which is calculated to soften the judgment as to his course. I allude to MacCarthy's ~~assertion~~ <sup>statement</sup> that Dr. ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> a slander uttered by MacCarthy <sup>against</sup> Dr. Riddell, which was of an exclusively personal character.



(unconnected with the client,) and which was no  
doubt equally false and ~~standards~~ as it was  
~~standards~~ infamous.

As to the gold ingots, ~~I am convinced~~ I had to remark that  
that they were not of a proper degree of du-  
rability. The detail of the trials made on them  
by the Crown can lead to no other conclusion,  
~~and the simple fact that a sample than that~~  
they were not of a proper degree of durability;  
and it now appears that Dr. Riddell was,  
in fact, not aware of the difficulty of ma-  
king the alloys of gold ductile, and was  
not acquainted with the process to be  
followed for this purpose. I had sup-  
posed that all our former instructions  
were on file at the New Orleans office;  
but it seems that this is not the case.

The omission, in the present case, has been al-  
ready supplied, in ~~such~~ a manner which  
I presume to be sufficient, but a copy of  
the original instructions shall be also sent.

With Dr. Riddell's notes for <sup>the</sup> dis-  
charging of his men, I have been made  
acquainted by the Superintendent, and  
I think that they were satisfactory.

It is a great misfortune to the New  
Orleans office, that the Master of the Crown  
~~should be~~ <sup>should be</sup> on terms of personal misunder-  
standing. Mr. Tyler is probably not blameless in  
this matter, but neither, certainly, is Dr.  
Riddell, whose conduct shows too much of an  
~~uncongenial~~ <sup>uncongenial</sup> disposition. Mr. Cameron says  
of him - "he has not succeeded in preserving in  
the client that harmony and good feeling so  
much to be desired, and without which its  
operations must be retarded, and the situation  
of the other officers rendered unpleasant." Mr.  
Stennedy, in his letter to Dr. Riddell, of the 9th  
inst., says, "I cannot omit the opportunity -"

With such <sup>entertainingly</sup> proper means <sup>presented</sup> by the Officer  
who has the <sup>immediate</sup> control of the <sup>S.D.</sup> client, - and with the  
evidence of the trouble into that knowledge  
that ~~personal~~ <sup>personal</sup> disputes among the officers  
must, but a short time ago, be the verge  
of ruin, - and has now given rise to so  
much trouble and confusion as to be one of  
the causes requiring the interference of the govern-  
ment, I hope that a better spirit will be  
cherished among them for the future, and  
that this source of complaint may be removed.



On the whole, though the evidence shows that  
~~no further steps be taken by the govern-~~  
~~ment in this matter.~~ There has been  
want of prudence and sound judgment in Dr.  
Riddell's course, but I do not think there  
remains sufficient cause for any further  
action, in the case, on the part of the go-  
vernment.

R. M. P.

Wm. Linn Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.

P.S. I return you all the papers, as you desire.

July 27, 1840.

Wm. Linn Woodbury.



Treasury Department

July 25<sup>th</sup> 1849.

Sir,

I transmit herewith a communication received from D. Riddell, in reply to & explanation of the charges preferred against him as Melter & Refiner at the Branch Mint at N. Orleans, together with the documents which accompanied it.

You will be pleased, after giving them a careful examination, to report to the Department whether in your opinion the explanations are satisfactory - and I will thank you to return the papers, as soon as may be, to the Dep<sup>t</sup>. with <sup>you return</sup> on the subject.

As it would seem from the papers, that the communication from your Mint to the Pr. at N. Orleans explaining the process pursued in making gold ingots was not received by D. Riddell. I would suggest that a copy be transmitted to him.

J. R. M. Patterson  
Philadelphia.

Very Respectfully

Sam<sup>l</sup> Woodbury  
Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Treasury.



J. Branch Hunt  
Baltimore July 20. 1840

I enclose a copy of a report from Mr. Comer.  
He informs me that from three to four weeks but less  
will be necessary to get his Department in complete  
order. If your authority should be requisite to  
enable me to get the Unit in readiness for that  
length of time you would oblige me by letting me  
have it. In that event, I think it more than  
likely, from what has once or twice fallen  
from in conversation, that Mr. Tyler will offer  
to me for leave of absence during that period.  
Am I to grant it, upon his appointing some  
competent person to superintend the repairs  
mentioned in his report? The object with him  
of a short visit to Philadelphia, would  
be to perfect himself in the operations of his  
Department.

I have a reply for Dr. Piddell  
the answer given by you in your letter to me  
of the 6<sup>th</sup> inst., to his questions concerning  
certain operations in his Department. I  
have communicated to him all your remarks



in declining to send Mr. Carthy's letter to you  
be used on the trial against the  
for slander. He has also appointed and  
I would have remarked that Dr. Stoddard  
of such a letter having been written to you, in  
long anterior to the receipt of my paper con-  
-viction of the W. Hall, maintaining the fact, &  
had heard it from several persons, to whom  
all Carthy's friends had been known to be  
determination and it's subsequent accomplishment.

You are, I am almost confident  
right, when you say that the same quarrel  
disposition which broke up our Institution once  
is again in action. I see as yet nothing tangible  
nothing that can be got at, but, that there  
is some scheme on foot, some dark intrigue  
big with change and expectation, is just as  
certain, in my opinion, as any thing can be,  
that we do not positively know. Let us  
hope that it's only issue may be discomfited.

It is, I suppose you, with respect  
of "conventional affectation" but with all the  
sincerity which your pen of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst.

articulated to myself that I once more thank  
you for that expression in regard to myself.

I am Sir,  
With great respect  
Your faithful servant  
R. M. Patterson Esq.  
Deicester Mass.  
the 12<sup>th</sup> of Feb.  
W. H. L. G.

P.S. In the way of repairs, the Milling department will  
require little or nothing.

W. H. L. G.



New Orleans  
July 11th '40

Sir,

Had the liberty of addressing you  
in relation to the charge made against Dr  
Riddell of the Trust of this place, I should  
have done so before did I think the charge itself  
worthy of notice. — Knowing Dr R. for  
many years — having worked with him  
in the Faculty of the Medical College for  
four or five years, & seeing him in many re-  
lations, that our gentleman can see another,  
my opinion can be put in the same class with  
the estimate of my character.

I can then say, in  
brief, that standing as he does in relation to the  
public N. & C. & estimating the man in such  
public is formed here, that Dr Riddell could  
not, in safety, have acted otherwise than he did.  
You, Sir, are fully aware of the nature of character, &  
I need not say that how you should have felt,  
were you assailed as a rascal — indiscreet /  
of my approbation, & fittingly a fellow of fir-  
ming reputation, who not only assailed him  
through my private source, but did it through  
the public press. Dr Riddell consulted me in regard



to the course it was thought best to pursue, though  
one of the last men to advise a resort to violence of  
any kind. - Satisfied to him that it was his duty to  
his reputation & the safety of his sweetest - first - to  
prove to the public that the charges were false &  
malicious libels, which he promptly did, by ha-  
ving the whole of his brilliant speeches & accounts  
examined, - & then, that as there was another  
way of reaching the verdict & that was through  
his personal feelings, it was <sup>due</sup> to him so to pre-  
sent him; - The idea of a libel or scandal suit  
was a mere mockery, & was giving the fellow  
an importance he should not reach any other  
way.

It was my conviction is so still that Dr  
Riddell is the community could have acted in  
any other way, I do truly believe that he is com-  
pletely justified in the opinion of all honorable  
men here.

I was astonished to see the handle made  
of it by his opponents, but it must have been  
grossly misrepresented to have reached the digni-  
ty of a matter by the Government! Any wretch  
however contemptible can "prosecute," but it belongs  
to our Courts of justice to convict or to justify.

Since the trouble I am giving you in calling your  
attention to this disgraceful charge I believe now,  
lie, that it is as unworthy of Riddell as of you myself.  
With regard to Dr Riddell, scientific qualifications, he  
has no superior in this community, & if he cannot

- always make himself as agreeable as others, it is  
because he has sacrificed the opinions to the solid,  
& though he may want some of the gilding of  
social intercourse, he has the solid ore of substan-  
tial good feelings, of refinement, acquisitions & un-  
questionable integrity.

With the highest respect &  
esteem

I remain

Yours, W. H.

C. H. Martineau



(Copy)

Cornier's Office U. S. Branch Mint  
New Orleans, July 16. 1840

To / S. M. Hemery Esq  
Superintendent

Dear Sir,

I beg to call your early attention to the repairs  
necessary in my Department.

The principal gearing of the Engine and Rolling  
room is much out of order, in consequence of the  
irregular setting of the Mason Work, upon which  
the Steam Engine and Machinery are built, all of  
which sh<sup>d</sup>. be re-adjusted.

The Boiler-furnace requires a new front, and I  
think it would be a matter of Prudence and  
economy to reset the boiler throughout as the  
bad bricks upon which they were first laid are  
constantly giving way, so much that the connecting  
pipe of the boiler has already been broken, which  
being fortunately discovered in time was renewed  
without further damage. The principal item of  
expense will be the casting of the fire front,  
for which there are suitable patterns at Messrs  
Lew's & Co's foundry.

One third of the floor in the Rolling room, as well  
as the whole of that in the Counting room, should  
be laid anew.



I would also mention, that we shall soon require  
more dime, half-dime and half dollar dies, as the  
ones we are now using are the last we have, there  
are plenty of all other denominations.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant

Signed, P. A. Tyler

Comr



New Orleans July 13<sup>th</sup> 1840

Sir,

I have the pleasure to own receipt of your letter of 26<sup>th</sup> ultimo. There is no record in this Office of the expenses made by Mr. Gordon for Buildings, Machinery &c. in re-establishing this Mint. By the books it appears that Mr. Forstall expended on this account about \$46,000. I have expended \$3436.07. as per accounts rendered, copies of which I will forward to you. There may be charged under this head, some small items, which, perhaps, properly, belonged to some other appropriation. Not one dollar has been expended by me on out-buildings, and only one mantle piece has been bought for \$6. under your authority, to make my apartments comfortable.

I am sorry to find that the Secretary of the Treasury will not increase our Deposit Account, on the contrary, he intimates an intention of drawing on the amount already here; You are aware, I believe, that we have \$50,000. in Silver, and \$72,000 in Gold.

Our City, thus far, continues very healthy, tho' many persons apprehend a sickly season, owing to the rapid fall of the River. A suspension of operations in the Mint, I hope, can be avoided, though a recess of a few weeks will perhaps, be necessary for cleaning up, repairing, refitting &c. which were entirely overlooked last year, during the confusion here.

I am gratified to learn from you that this Branch has



been gaining in efficiency and in credit. - Business here is nearly over for the season, and our deposits are falling off. In the month of June the deposits were \$8,000. Dollars, of which \$7,000. were procured from the Banks; on these we cannot depend during the hot months, when the Officers are often absent from the City. -

My Contingent accounts are ready, and will be forwarded tomorrow or the next day.

I am, very respectfully

Your faithful Servant.

J. C. Hammond

J. Rell Patterson  
Philadelphia

P. S.

Enclose copy of a letter from Dr Riddell and my reply, which Mr Kennedy has informed you will be sent.



W. S. Branch Mint  
N. Orleans July 12, 1840

Sir,

Dr. Riddell, on the receipt of a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, submitting for explanation certain charges I preferred against him, addressed me two letters. Of these, as well as of my reply thereto I have the honor to enclose copies, for I deem it proper that you should be kept acquainted with every step that is taken in this matter. Notes were also received from Dr. R. by the other officers of the Mint. I mean it to be the intention of Mr. Cammack (with whom I conversed about our affairs more freely than the rest) to furnish you with a copy of his reply.

It is, I assure you, difficult to find a person, in every respect, suitable for the office of Master of Refiner, in case of a vacancy. As yet I have been unable to do so. Should the President determine upon dismissing the present incumbent, it is more



than probable that you will know it some time before the removal is made. In that event, should you think fit to reiterate your request, and allow me to consult with some friends who feel a deep interest in the success of our Institution, I will take all the pains in my power to recommend a proper successor.

Mr. Tyler, I am happy to inform you, has been able to work about \$8000 of the last melt of gold - Dr. R. iddell requests me to say that the process followed by you in the preparation of gold and which was explained (in your words) in a communication formerly sent to the Mint, has never come into his hands. He has taken a copy of the "general view of it" which you have given in your's of the 2<sup>d</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> - I trust we shall now get along better -

I yesterday rec'd a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury in relation to the out-houses, Marble Mounts &c. I am instructed to report under whose authority, and by whose direction

the out-houses were built, by whom the expenditure for furniture were authorized, of what the furniture principally consists, whether the expenditures under all these heads were made with a due regard to economy, and to state whether all, or how many of the Officers of the Mint reside in the building? You shall be furnished with a copy of my report.

I will conclude by asking with your leave / a question which concerns myself. You know that I do not reside in the Mint. Do you think my presence in the establishment essential, during a certain length of time, and if so how long / on every working day, whether it be necessary or not for that period, or so long only as is requisite for the performance of all my duties as Superintendent. You may possibly, some day or other, see my object in asking your opinion upon the subject.

Dr. H. M. Patterson  
Secretary

I am Sir with great respect  
Your faithful servant  
J. M. Thompson  
Sup't.



Albion N. S.  
July 11th, 1840.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ult., on the subject of the personal assault made by you on Mac Carthy, a workman discharged from the Mint. I still consider this attack with great disapprobation and regret, and I cannot but hope that, on a calm review of the matter, you also look upon it in the same light. I acknowledge, however, that your possession of a card of provocation was very great, and presents a feature, unknown to me before, and which ~~gives~~ <sup>gives</sup> a new aspect to the affair. I allude to the accusation which you say that he made against you, and which entered into close relations of your life entirely disconnected with your official station. My letter to Mr. Kennedy will show that I considered it one of the most features of your



assault on Ellen Carthy, that it was  
made by an officer on a subaltern,  
and in consequence of an official dispute.  
It now appears that the affair was  
not wholly of an <sup>that</sup> official character.  
That it was at all so, should have  
withheld your aim from a resort to  
illegal means, even if your conscience  
could excuse such resort in any case.

R. M. P.

I

To / Dr. J. L. Piddell,  
Master & Referee of  
Branch Mint,  
New Orleans



(Copy)

Sir,

In reply to your Note of the 7th I have to say, that for some time past, the business of this Mint, has not moved on with that success and good feeling among the Officers and workmen, that should characterize its operations. In relation to this, I have several times conversed with you, and have always, as you know, been most anxious and have used every caution, to restore that good understanding and friendly feeling, which, unfortunately, had been disturbed. Failing in this, I felt myself called upon, as I mentioned to you at the time and since, to address S. Patterson on the subject, which I did, through the Superintendent here. The following is extract of my letter & copy of what relates to yourself, and this is I believe, the only instance wherein I have had occasion to mention your name to S. Patterson, since I announced your arrival from Texas.

"I will here remark to you candidly, and I do it with reluctance, that the Melting & Refining Department in its operations, has not reached the anticipations I had entertained, in consequence of the recommendations so warmly made by the friends of S. Kiddell, nor has he succeeded in preserving in the Mint, that harmony and good feeling so much to be desired, and without which, its operations must be retarded, and the situation of the other Officers rendered



"unpleasant... As it was I who first brought D. Riddell's name  
before you for nomination, which I did, without knowing him,  
and without his knowledge, I feel it incumbent upon me to  
apprize you of my disappointment."

This was enclosed by me to the Superintendent in a  
letter from which the following is an extract.

"As I am actuated only by a sense of duty, I trust there  
will be no action on what I have written, and for this  
reason, I suggest to you the propriety of my letter  
being considered private; I do this with the more  
propriety, as you have intimated your intention of  
reporting to D. Patterson on this subject."

In regard to the Gold Ingot, about which there has been so  
much contention, I have studiously avoided to express an opinion  
except to yourself when asked; I now, as you must say, that  
I cannot agree with you in opinion, that they were cracked interna-  
tionally by the Comers or his workmen.

I entertain towards you no unfriendly feelings, whatever,  
I am deeply pained that unfortunate misunderstandings have  
again disturbed the quiet of this Mint, and given that, in the discharge  
of the duties of my office, I am compelled to disregard personal  
considerations.

In conclusion, I have to state, that I have never said  
that you have lost my regard.

D. S. Riddell  
Mint & Refiner

I am respectfully, Yr. M<sup>or</sup>. Off. Serv<sup>t</sup>.  
(Signed) H. C. Clammack

New Orleans  
July 9<sup>th</sup> 1840

(Copy)

Mint & Refiner's Office  
July 7. 1840.

H. C. Clammack Esq.

Sir,

I have received a copy of Charges prepared  
against me at Washington, among them one in the following  
words:-

"That you have lost the regard of your fellow Officers."

I should be pained to suppose that you  
could not for yourself individually, give me the means of  
refuting it. Oblige me by doing so, or let me know wherein  
I have deserved a penalty so unwelcome to my desires  
and feelings.

Respectfully  
Yr. Off. Serv<sup>t</sup>.  
(Signed) D. S. Riddell



/Copr/

Melton & Refiner's Office  
7<sup>th</sup> July 1840

J. M. Hanner, Esq.  
Superintendent

Dr,

I received yesterday for explanation from the Secretary of the Treasury, a copy of certain charges made against me. They are as follows =

1. That you have unnecessarily quarreled with, and discharged your Postmen - that you have lost the regard of your fellow Officers, and that you have not succeeded in preserving in the Mint the harmony and good feeling so much to be desired, and without which the operations of the Mint must be retarded and the situation of the other officers rendered unpleasant -

2<sup>nd</sup> That you are giving bading to the Corner,  
and do not seem able to make them better.

3<sup>d</sup> That the day after the examination of the contents of your vault by the Treasurer, you went, accompanied with your brother and one of your workmen to the lodgings of Mr. McCarthy,



to mention your name to Dr. Patterson in connection with  
any thing like, an undesirable state of affairs, in the Mint.

When I replied to his inquiries about the dis-  
-charge of two of your workmen, my statement was read  
by yourself, and approved as containing the exact circum-  
-stances of the case.

The second instance, grew out of the contro-  
-versy between the Comer and you about the gold,  
and the manner in which that matter was laid  
before the Director, was submitted to, and recognized  
by both that office and yourself as correct.

The last was in obedience to an imperative  
duty of which I apprized you at the time. It was  
the representation of your affair with McCarthy,  
given without a word of comment upon your con-  
-duct, and for reasons with which you now by me  
made fully acquainted.

I cannot omit the opportunity now offered of  
renewing to you, the expression of the deep regret I expe-  
-rience, at the misunderstanding which has existed for some  
time between you and Mr. Tyler. The question appears  
to have grown into one of qualification, a skill, in  
which the pride of each is exclusively involved.  
Hence, each one of you, in the full conviction  
that he is thoroughly acquainted with his own  
business is unwilling to listen to any thing from  
the other in the way of suggestion. This is a  
state of things to which I can foresee no

end, so long as we have any metal either to melt  
or coin; unless, a feeling which, with us all,  
should be stronger than any other, to wit, a  
desire for harmony and peace throughout the  
Establishment, should bring about between  
you, a better understanding, founded upon a  
spirit of mutual concession.

I have never to any one given the  
slightest intimation that you had lost  
my regard - You have not done so -

Respectfully,  
Yours,

Signed - J. M. McKim

Sup<sup>ts</sup>



Mint of the United States,  
July 7, 1840.

Sir,

I enclose herewith, accompanied by the necessary vouchers, a statement of the Account of your Branch, for expenses incurred here, during the quarter, ending on the 30th ult. There remains to your Credit a balance of Seventeen <sup>38</sup>/<sub>100</sub> Dollars (\$17.38.)

My late correspondence with the Superintendent will give you all the information I possess with regard to your accounts at Washington. The difficulty, I presume, lies entirely in the expenditures under the appropriation for establishing the mint, - which expenditures seem to have been continued to this day. A rigid scrutiny into this matter has been going on instituted by a Committee of Congress, in consequence, I think, of a claim made by the Contractor for extra work. No doubt you have been informed, before this time, of the state of the business. The blame, - if it can be at all - must fall most heavily upon the former régime at your mint.

W. H. C. Cressman, Esq.  
Treasurer

A. M. P.  
D. M.



1  
Lieut. M. S.  
July 6/40.

Sir, I have just received your letter of the 24th ult., giving me information as to the present state of the criminal and civil actions brought against Dr. Riddell. It is lamentable that any circumstances should have occurred among you to under such persecutions possible.

On the 24th ult., I received a letter from Dr. Riddell, which I have failed to answer, because I ~~was~~ judged it more proper, ~~to~~ under the peculiar circumstances in which he is now placed, to correspond with you. My prepossessions were much in favor of Dr. Riddell, this officer, and I am, on that account, the more distressed at the scandal which he has drawn upon himself and the unit. If, in the affair with MacCarthy, he had acted ~~as was~~ only officially, — as was both his policy and his duty — he would not now be exposed to these ~~unhappy~~ persecutions. ~~In Dr. Riddell's letter, he~~ <sup>refers to a letter of</sup> that Dr. MacCarthy ~~has said that he had written a letter to me, with regard to him, and he adds —~~ "as this slander or libel will undergo



a legal investigation, I have to request that you will transmit to myself, or Mr. Stearns, if you prefer it, the original letter, as a copy will not answer. — I have already told you that I did receive such a letter, and I told you, at the same time, that I did not think my interference in the case called for, because "it appeared that Dr. MacCarthy was himself under suspicion, and was greatly irritated by this circumstance, and because you must necessarily be acquainted with the whole affair." — In fact, I should never have noticed the letter of MacCarthy at all, if it had not been for rumors reaching me from this source, and this must be evident to you from my letter of the 18th ult. — ~~It is clear that Dr. MacCarthy's attacks upon some business communication to me did not do any injury to Dr. Riddell.~~ Now as to the request that I will send Dr. MacCarthy's private letter to ~~me~~ to be used in a trial for slander, I must decline it. I should consider such a course a breach of confidence, and it would be excessively annoying to me to have even my correspondence introduced into such an affair.

Dr. Riddell, in his letter, asks some questions ~~which it is proper that I should~~ to which I will beg you to convey to him

~~answers~~ the my answers. —

He asks, first, if he "had not better receive silver from the poorest refuse grains by amalgamation." — I answer that I cannot recommend this process. After the usual mint processes are exhausted, it is best to sell the ~~silver~~ remaining sweep to the smelter. The operators at New York take our sweep at our own valuation by assay, deduct 6 1/2 per cent. for their work, and pay the amount on the delivery of the sweep.

He asks, secondly, "what I think of the comparative merits of nitric and sulphuric acid for dissolving silver in the process of parting." — On the large scale, where the platinum vessels and other apparatus can be afforded, the sulphuric acid process is to be preferred; but for the amount of work done at our Mints, it is best to continue the use of nitric acid. At least, I would not recommend any change <sup>now</sup> in your operations, which would require so great an expenditure as this.

Dr. Riddell's third question is "whether Mexican bars should be refined previous to parting." — The same refined process before parting, when this process is required.



Dr. Reddick asks, fourthly, whether, "he  
may not picket gold ingots himself, before  
they are formally delivered to the Crime."  
I answer that he may do so, of course,  
if he desires it. The picketing of the  
ingots is done by the Crime, only because  
he has the means <sup>always</sup> ~~ready~~ at his command,  
but he is considered as acting for the  
Mutter & Refiner.

R. M. P.

J. M.

To  
Mr. M. Kennedy, Esq.,  
Sup. Br. Court,  
St. W. Meas.

July 6. 1840.

To  
Mr. M. Kennedy, Esq.,  
Sup. Br. Court,  
St. W. Meas.



Treasury Department  
Dec<sup>r</sup>. 30. 1840.

Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt  
of your communications of the 26<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> and to  
express my gratification at the favorable account you  
give of the operations of the Branch Mint at  
N. Orleans.

Very Respectfully  
Jeni Woodbury  
Sec. of the Treasury.

D. W. M. Patterson  
Directo. of the Mint  
Philadelphia



Mint of the U. S.  
Dec. 28, 1840.

Sir,

The enclosed letter, of the 26<sup>th</sup>, was detained, in consequence of an error committed in a post-script, which I have now suppressed. It regarded the recoinage of Subtreasury deposits at the New Orleans Mint. I will now state, that a report on this matter, made at my request, presents the whole amount of recoinage at \$118,188.97 of which deposits, producing \$118,005.43 in our coins. Of the deposits \$17,709.34 were in gold, and \$100,479.63 in silver. The principal loss is on the recoinage of Spanish & Mexican half & quarter dollars, which are much ~~below~~ below the standard weight. —

R. M. P.

D.

To/ Hon. Levi Woodbury }  
Sec. of Treasury.



Mint of the United States,  
Dec. 26th, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22d inst., in which you state that it has been suggested to the Department whether it would not be proper to furnish the New Orleans Mint with Eagle dies. As this is the second time that this suggestion has been made, I must suppose that there is some particular desire to have this variety of gold coins struck at New Orleans, and I have accordingly ordered a pair of dies to be immediately prepared. It has appeared to me, however, that the smaller denominations were better suited to the amount of the deposits at this Mint, and that the trouble and expense of making the fixtures for the Eagle ought to be avoided. The whole amount of gold deposits in 1839 was but \$88,907; and in the eleven months which have elapsed of the present year, the amount is but \$239,927. These are very small sums, and have, as I think properly, been coined into half and quarter-eagles. Still, I can have no possible objection to furnish Eagle dies, and the Superintendent, in consultation with the depositors, will then have a full choice as to the denominations to be coined. — If Congress



would repeat the law making foreign gold coins  
a legal tender on terms which keep them from  
recoupage, the operations of the New Orleans Mint,  
in this metal, might make the striking of Eagles  
very desirable.

In the conclusion of your letter you ask  
me "to urge upon the Officers of the New Orleans  
Branch the necessity of great industry and ac-  
tivity in the coming year."— I shall be happy  
to communicate your desires in this matter, in which  
I join; but I would, I think, be doing injustice  
to these officers, were I to allow it to be inferred  
that their business has been neglected. I have  
before me the reports for the present year, up  
to the beginning of December. The amount of  
deposits was \$741,023, and that of coinage  
\$813,000.— No remark is necessary on this state-  
ment.— All the deposits have been coined, and the  
deficiencies of the last year, caused by death of Officers  
and men, repaired. If this Mint has not answered  
the expectations of some of its most sanguine ad-  
vocates, the fault lies in the small amount of  
the deposits, over which the Officers have no con-  
trol.

Very respectfully,

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Secretary of Treasury.

Your faithful servant,

H. M. Patterson,  
(Director)



Treasury Department  
December 22. 1840.

Sir

It has been intimated to the Department that the Branch Mint at N. Orleans had never been furnished with Eagle dies, and suggesting, whether it would not be proper to furnish them.

I will thank you to give your attention to the matter, and, if you shall think it expedient to do so, to cause them to be sent at as early a period as practicable - and, also, to urge upon the officers of that branch the necessity of <sup>great industry, the coming year</sup> doing all in the way of coining that their means will enable them to perform.

Very Respectfully

Sam<sup>l</sup> Woodbury  
Sec. of the Treas.

J. W. Patterson  
Director of the Mint  
Philad<sup>a</sup>



Mint of the U. S.

Dec. 22. 1840.

Sir,

Herewith I send you a bill  
of lading of acid shipped on the 14th  
inst., for the use of your Mint.

Mr. Saw assumes me that great  
care has been taken in the preparation  
of this lot of acids, and he feels con-  
fident that Dr. Whedell will find its  
quality much superior to the last. I  
will thank you to inform me, if this is  
not the case.

Very resptl.

yr faithful st.

R. W. P.

To/

Mr. Kennedy,

Supt. Pr. Mint,

New Orleans.

Director.

J. M. Munn

Director's Clerk.



Treasury Department  
December 21. 1840.

Sir

Yours of the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> have been received - and a box of dies for the N. Orleans B. Mint which shall be immediately forwarded.

The estimates as furnished by you on the 10<sup>th</sup> ult. have been submitted to Congress - and I will thank you to write to the Superintendent at N. Orleans, stating to him that fact and urging, if you have not already done so, the greatest economy in the expenditure ~~as you~~ <sup>have proposed</sup>.

Very Respectfully

*Sam<sup>l</sup> Woodbury*  
Sec. of the Treasury.

J. R. M. Patterson  
Director of the Mint  
Philad<sup>a</sup>



Mint W. D.  
Dec. 19, 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending you,  
by the present mail, a box of dies, addressed on  
the inner envelope to the Sup<sup>t</sup> of New Orleans,  
S<sup>t</sup>. Mint, - to be forwarded under your  
frank as usual. We shall send another box  
on Monday. (These are the first dies of 1841.)

Very respectfully,  
your faithful serv<sup>t</sup>.  
W. M. P.  
J.

To/ Hon. Levi Woodbury }  
Sec<sup>y</sup> of Treasury. }



Mint of the United States,  
Dec. 18, 1840.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> inst., with the report of your operations for Nov<sup>r</sup>, which is very satisfactory.

I have also to thank you for the report on the deposits for recoinage from the Subtreasury. On this I have to remark, that the reports always have evaded us some surprises, - all of them seeming too low to correspond with our experience. Thus we find the average fineness of British Sovereigns to 915  $\frac{1}{2}$  full, instead of 915. Mex. dolls. 897, instead of 896 or 895. Spanish coins 898, instead of 895. French five franc pieces commonly rise to 901, except those of more recent date, since the introduction of the Milled Assay. In the gold there is an item of \$4215.75 of Spanish coins reported at the fineness of 895. This, it appears to me must surely be a mistake; the legal standard being 900 since the revolution, and 916 before it.

I have found the loss on the recoinage of Spanish and Mexican Silver, at this Mint, so considerable, - principally owing to deficient weight, especially in halves & quarters, - that I have directed that this part of the recoinage of Subtreasury Money should cease. As these coins are of denominations answering to our money of account, there is no inconvenience in their circulation. It is at your option to follow the same course which I have adopted.



Let me beg you to give me, at as early a day as possible after the close of the year, the information necessary for my annual report, as to what concerns your Mint.

I have sent, to the Sec. of Treasury, your estimate for 1841, with the remarks which you make on the subject, & which lead you to think that it ought to be substituted for <sup>that</sup> which I sent. I must observe, however, that I am strongly impressed with the conviction that your item of Contingent Expenses is unnecessarily large. The item of "Mr. Commack, that the Melted & Coined may possibly make a wastage reaching the limit set by the law, is not to be entertained even hypothetically. - Nothing but the greatest carelessness, or loss by robbery, could lead to such a result. Our total wastage, last year, was but about \$3,000, on a coinage of \$300,000. - Let me also state that our estimate, this year, "for incidental & contingent expenses, including wastage of gold & silver, fuel, materials, stationery, water-rent, and taxes", is \$16,000. The corresponding item which I have asked for your Mint is \$17,100; and that which you ask \$20,100.

Let me call your attention to the necessity of forwarding the Coins received at your Mint for the Annual Assay made here in February.

You will also send me a report of the destination of the dies of 1840, as intimated in my letters of June 24, 1839, & Jan. 16, 1840.

Have any measures been yet taken as to your success? Dr. Whidell went to N. York, to make inquiries & arrangements as to this matter; but I learn that the Persons to whom he spoke has heard nothing from him since.

(Signed) D. M. Patterson,  
Director.

To /  
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq. }  
Asst. Dir. Mint, }  
New Orleans.

P.S. - We shall send you, to-morrow, through the Sec. of Treasury, 1 head 2 dollar, & 1 head 2 dollar die; ~~for~~ and by the next mail, 1 head 2 eagle, 1 head dime, & 1 head 2 dime die; all for 1841.



Mint of the U. S.  
Dec. 18th, 1840.

Sir,

On the estimate for the Mint and its Branches which I had the honor to send to you on the 10th ult., I make the following remark.

"The estimate for the New Orleans Branch Mint is the same as that granted for the present year. On the 26th of Sept., I wrote to the Superintendent of that Mint, to ask for his estimate to form the basis of that which I was called upon to present to you. My letter has not brought an answer; and, as I cannot consent to delay this communication longer I am under the necessity of assuming that the expense for the coming year will be the same as that for the last."

~~On the 16th of September, I received~~

The whole amount of this estimate was \$52,000; viz.

For Salaries, \$ 12,900

Wages, 22,000

Contingents, 17,100

\$ 52,000

On the 16th of ~~September~~, I received from New Orleans the estimate for which I had written. Its amount was \$54,000. viz.



Salaries, of Superintendent	\$ 2500
Travelling	2000
Assay	2000
Stationery & Printing	2000
Coin	2000
Two Clerks	2400
	<hr/> 12,900
Wages of Workmen,	21,000
Incidental & Contingent Expenses	20,100
	<hr/> \$ 54,000

In reply to the letter <sup>giving</sup> the above estimate, I informed Mr. Kennedy of that ~~estimate~~ which had presented; and said, — "If you deem it necessary to amend this estimate so as to correspond with your own, I will, on your so informing me, make application, for this purpose, to the Department. If you can make out with the sum I have asked, I would advise it."

I yesterday received a letter from Mr. Kennedy, of the 14th inst., in which he says: — "I am of opinion that your estimate should be so amended as to make it correspond with ours. Our coinage, for the next year, will, I hope, be very heavy. Should it prove so, the difference in amount between

the two [\$2000] will probably be required for [additional] postage."

I comply with my promise to Mr. Kennedy, by laying this communication before you; but, at the same time, I cannot avoid expressing my doubts as to the necessity for so large an item of contingent expenses, especially with a view of providing for so great anticipated postage. In a note from the Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint to the Superintendent, of which a copy was sent to me, he says: "If the full postage allowed by law is to be claimed by the Officers of the Mint, the full amount of the estimate which has been sent to the Director of the Mint, will, I think, be required, to cover expenses." I am surprised that it should be deemed possible that the limit of allowance prescribed by law <sup>can</sup> be reached in the postage. ~~This~~ <sup>It</sup> cannot happen without <sup>great</sup> carelessness, or loss from robbery. Our postage, for the last year, at this limit, was but about \$3,000 in a coinage of \$8,000,000. I may add, too, that our estimate, for the present year, for incidental and contingent expenses, including postage of gold and silver, fuel, materials, stationery, water-rent, and taxes, is \$16,000. — The corresponding item which I have added for the other items



amount is \$17,100, - that which they agree  
ask \$20,100.

R. M. P.

To  
Hon. Gen. Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.

At  
Sec. of Treasury.

Dec. 18. 1870.



Min. N. O.

Dec. 14, 1840.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th inst., enclosing a bill presented by Dr. Riddell to the Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint, of \$375, for his "necessary expenses incurred in travelling from New Orleans, to the City of New York & back, in matters relating to that Mint &c." You ask me to state "whether in my opinion this bill is reasonable in amount."

In reply, I have to state, that, from the inquiries which I have made, I have no doubt that Dr. Riddell's journey visited to this Mint &c. may have cost him the full sum which he demands; but it was expressly understood between us, when he asked the letter which I wrote to you on the 14th Sept. last, that the allowance if made to him at all, should only be for his necessary expenses incurred on the road while actually travelling. I cannot say that this limitation has been negated in the claim presented by Dr. Riddell; but if not his expenses were certainly extraordinary, much greater than I had ever supposed they could reach on such a journey.

I would respectfully recommend that the bill be referred back to the Supl. of the N. O. Mint,



(Without whose warrant it cannot be paid,) and  
that he be instructed to satisfy himself, from Dr.  
Riddell's bill of costs, and if he deem it neces-  
sary, other sources of information, what were the  
messengery road expenses incurred on Dr. Riddell's  
journey, that for this amount he issue his  
Warrant on the Treasurer.

The original bill is returned to you  
enclosed.

J. V. M. D.  
Jr.

To /  
Hon. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treas. }



Treasury Department  
December 10. 1840.

Sir,

The President decided, in Sept. last, to allow the necessary expenses incurred by D<sup>r</sup>. Riddell, in travelling from N. Orleans to Philad<sup>a</sup> and N. York and back on matters relative to the operations of the Br. Mint at N. Orleans.

The enclosed bill, presented by D<sup>r</sup>. Riddell to the Treasurer of the Br. Mint at N. Orleans, has been submitted for the sanction of the Department. I will thank you to state, whether, in your opinion, the bill is reasonable in amount.

Very respectfully  
Jas. Woodbury  
Sec. of the Treasury

D<sup>r</sup>. W. M. Patterson -  
Director of the Mint  
Philad<sup>a</sup>.



U. S. Branch Mint New Orleans  
December 4. 1840

Sir,

I enclose the statement of our operations for November, and, at your request, a statement of the deposits for revenue from the Subtreasury fund. Upon the subject of these deposits, or also in relation to our estimate for the year 1841, allow me to give you an extract from a communication I have just received from Mr. Cammeyer, at whose suggestion it was, that the additional sum of \$2000 was asked, for the next year.

"As to the estimate for the ordinary expenses of the  
"Mint for the year 1841, I of course, cannot know  
"as well as yourself what will be required. I put  
"down what I supposed would be the amount.  
"I never expected that there would be a loss in  
"the revenue of the Subtreasury fund, but the  
"result of our operations thus far, shows that it was  
"prudent to be provided against it. Had I not  
"paid out a large amount of foreign gold which  
"could not be coined at the time, the loss would  
"have been greater. If the full postage allowed  
"by law is to be claimed by the officers of the Mint,  
"the full amount of the estimate which has been  
"sent to the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia  
"plus with, I think, be required to cover the expenses.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
J. M. Smith



in the workings of the public money. But I am  
nevertheless of opinion that your estimate should be  
so amended as to make it correspond with ours.  
Our estimate for the next year will, I hope, be very  
nearly - Should it prove so, the difference in amount  
between the two will probably be required for new legs

With great respect

Yr. Obedt. Servant

J. M. Henry  
Esq.

R. M. Patterson Esq.  
Director of the Mint  
of the U. S.

Philadelphia



Statement of the Deposits and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of  
November 1840

Deposits							Coinage			
Kind of Deposits	Grassweight	Standard	Value before	Value after	Total Value before deductions		Denomination	Number of pieces	Value	Total Value
	Amount due	Amount due	Dollars	Cts					Dollars	Cts
<i>Sold:</i>							<i>Sold:</i>			
Foreign Coins	1029 47	1040 105	19352 27	19352 27			Half Eagles	14000	70000 00	
						19352 27				70000 00
<i>Silver:</i>							<i>Silver:</i>			
Foreign Bullion	389 90	363 95	423 49	423 16			Half Dollars	146000	73000 00	
Foreign Coins	102477 35	102809 24	118701 40	118663 01			Quarter Dollars	100000	25000 00	
							Dimes	245000	24500 00	
							Half Dimes	70000	3500 00	
						119124 89				130000 00
								550000		
						130477 16				200000 00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans  
Treasurer's Office, December 9<sup>th</sup> 1840  
H. B. M. A. C. R.  
Treasurer.



Mints of the United States,  
Dec. 1. 1840.

Sir

I take the liberty of transmitting  
to you, by the present mail, a box of dies,  
directed on the inner envelope to the Su-  
perintendent of New Orleans, Pr. Mint,  
to be forwarded under your frank. Two  
boxes more will be sent in the same  
manner, by the next two mails.

J. V. M. P.

Director.

To  
Mr. Levi Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treasury.

Dec. 1. Sent	1 pc.	22 \$ dies
2	1	1/2 dime "
3	2	tail 1/2 \$ "



Mint of the U. S.  
Dec. 1. 1840.

Sir,

I have transmitted, by the present  
mail, to the Sec. of Treasury, to be forwarded  
to you under his frank, a box containing one  
pair half dollar dies, for 1840. We shall  
send in like manner, to-morrow, 1 pr.  $\frac{1}{4}$  dollar,  
+ 1 pr.  $\frac{1}{2}$  dime dies; and on the day after 2 tail  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  dollar dies, all for 1840.

The dies for 1841 are in a course  
of preparation.

P. M. P.  
Director.

To  
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq. }  
Supt. of Pr. Mint, }  
New Orleans.



Deposits for recoupage from the subtreasury fund.

Sold Oct 70. Sovereigns. Value by table. Shilling. product  
 $\$13,493.59. + 915. \$13,477.30$   
 71. French Coins. 4,215.75. 895. 4,187.78

Silver. 349. Mex. Dollars 30,000. — 896. 30,123.43  
 358. Span. Coins 2,086.17 895. 2,017.17  
 398. Span. Coins 8,913.27 895.  
 Mex. Dollars. 15,000. — 896.  
 20,913.27 20,644.82

397. Span. pieces 17,450.19. + 900. 17,458.67  
 419. Mex. Dollars 30,000. — 895. 30,094.26  
 $\$118,188.97. \$118,005.43$

Less to date 123.54

+ titles assumed.  $\$118,188.97$

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans  
 Treasurer's Office, Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1840  
 H. C. Hammett  
 Clerk



Albion, N.Y.  
Nov. 16 /40.

Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 11th inst., with the monthly report of your operations for October.

I am glad to learn that Dr. Riddell is now again at his post. — I hope that your officers will join their exertions, for the purpose of leaving the best possible amount of bullion uncoined, at the close of the year, when you send me your annual report.

I have duly received, and placed to the credit of your account, the thousand dollars transmitted to me, from the Treasury Department, at your request, for the payment of <sup>bills for</sup> articles purchased here for the use of your office.

I regret to learn that you have been ill, and that there was so sad a cause for the delay in sending on your estimate for 1841. As the regulations of the Department did not admit of so long a postponement on my part, I was under the necessity of assuming your wants for the coming year to be the same as for the present, and I accordingly I sent the same estimate, viz.



For salaries, <del>of office</del>	\$12,900.
Wages, —————	22,000
Contingents, —————	17,100
	<u>\$52,000</u>

If you deem it necessary to amend this estimate so as to correspond with your own, I will, on your so informing me, make application, for this purpose, to the Department. If you can make out with the sum I have asked, I would advise it.

~~I had hoped, from~~

Dr. Reddick told me, (I think it was he) that your Subtreasury deposits were principally in Mexican dollars, and, as these ~~is some gain on their receipts~~, I had hoped that there would not be the loss, which you speak of, on the receipt of public moneys deposited at the office. I will feel much obliged to you for a statement of this account.

A. M. P.

Wm. M. Kennedy, Esq.  
Sup. Br. Off., St. L.

P. S. I send herewith copies of the bills rendered to me, of articles purchased for your Mint, & forwarded as per bills of lading sent to you on the 2d inst. Should the articles received not correspond with the invoices, I will thank you to inform me.



W. C. Branch Mint  
New Orleans, November 13<sup>th</sup> 1840

Sir,

I am requested by Dr. Riddell, to write for some  
25 or 30 Carls of Nitric acid, for separating, "of  
a quality superior to the last, which is very in con-  
sistent on account of the large admixture of muriatic  
acid." Your early attention to this order will confer  
a favor on us.

I received yesterday your letter enclosing  
two bills of lading for articles purchased by you for  
the use of our Mint, and stating, that you had as  
yet got no answer in relation to our Estimates for  
1841. Dr. Riddell, whom we wished to consult  
did not arrive, as I have before mentioned to you  
until the middle of October. In the hurry and  
anxiety at that time, to get every thing in readiness  
for an immediate resumption of operations, the  
consideration of the matter was, unfortunately,  
lost sight of. In the mean time, I was, as I have also before  
stated to you, prevented by a severe indispo-  
sition, from attending to business for several  
days.

I trust that these reasons will be



admitted  
in extenuation, particularly, when it is considered  
that you will still have received our Estimate  
in season to lay it before the Treasury Department  
some three weeks prior to the opening of Congress,  
to be incorporated in a bill, which is generally,  
I believe, not passed until towards the close  
of the Session.

I am, Sir,

Very respectfully

Yours obed<sup>t</sup> Servant

R. M. Patterson Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Director of the Mint  
of the U. S. Philad<sup>a</sup>

J. M. McKim  
Supt.



An Estimate of the Expenses of the Branch Mint  
at New Orleans, for the year 1841.

For Salaries of Officers & Clerks.	Dollars.	Dollars.
The Superintendent	2,500.	
The Treasurer	2,000	
The Coiner	2,000	
The Assayer	2,000	
The Melters & Refiners	2,000	
Two Clerks at \$1200 each	2,400	12,900.
For Compensation to <sup>Workmen,</sup> <del>laborers</del> <del>the various departments</del>		22,000.
For Incidental & Contingent Expenses, including fuel, materials, taxes, & Passage of Gold & Silver.		17,100.
		52,000.

Mint of the United States,  
Nov. 10. 1840.



Treasury Department  
Novemb. 10<sup>th</sup> 1840

Sir,

From a letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst received this day  
from T. M. Kennedy Esq. Superintendent of the Br. Mint of the  
U. S. at New Orleans I transmit the following extract.

"for contingent expenses you will oblige me by remitting \$1000  
to Dr. Patterson for the purchase from time to time in Philadel.  
of such articles for the use of our mint as are not to be pro-  
cured here."

Agreeably to this request, a warrant has this day issued  
in your favor as Director of the Mint for the sum of \$1000.

Very Respectfully Sir  
I remain Your Obedt. S<sup>t</sup>

Sam<sup>l</sup> Woodbury  
Secretary of the Treasury

R. M. Patterson Esq.  
Director of the U. S.  
Mint at Philadel<sup>a</sup>



N. S. Branch Mint  
New Orleans, Nov 5. 1840

Sir,

You will much oblige me by sending us the following  
dies, which Mr. Tyler thinks will be sufficient  
for the remainder of the year 1840 -

1  $\frac{1}{2}$  dollar with two extra tails  
1  $\frac{1}{4}$  ditto, and  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  dime.

The  $\frac{1}{2}$  dollar die will be the soonest required  
as we have but one pair of that denomination which  
have not been used.

Allow me also to request you to have our dies for  
the year 1841 forwarded in time to be got ready for  
use by the 1<sup>st</sup> of January.

I am very respectfully

Yr. obed. Serv<sup>t</sup>

R. M. Patterson Esq.  
Director of the Mint  
Of the U. S.  
Phila.

J. M. Donnelly  
Supt.



New Orleans Nov 4 1840

Sir,

I have this moment received from Mr. Barnard a Statement of our operations for October which I hasten to enclose. Dr. Riddell's return to this did not take place until two weeks after the time I fixed at the period of his departure for Phila. He was detained a considerable time in Louisiana by the low stage of the Ohio river and was at last compelled to cross over to St. Louis and come down the Mississippi.

My not having sent you sooner the Estimate on expenses for the year 1841, has been caused by a severe indisposition, which has confined me for several days to my bed.

We have agreed upon it as follows.

Compensation to Sup <sup>t</sup>	\$2500
" " Fees	2000
" " Assays	2000
" " Metals Refine	2000
" " Cinders	2000
" " Lab <sup>r</sup> expense	2400
Compensation to laborers in the various departments	12900
Incidental & Contingent expenses including	
Montage of gold and silver	2000
	\$54000

The incidental and contingent expenses for 1841 have been set down at \$3000 less than we have estimated.



147  
be required to cover the charge for postage on gold  
and Silver, which will be incurred in proportion to  
the increased coinage which is anticipated, and to  
make up any loss that may arise from the wearing  
of the public money deposited in the Mint under  
the Subtreasury Law.

I have requested the Secretary of  
the Treasury to remit you the sum of One  
thousand dollars for the payment of articles  
to be purchased by you for the use of our Mint.

I am very respectfully

Y<sup>r</sup> obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

R. M. Patterson Esq<sup>r</sup>

Director of the Mint  
of the U. S.

P.M.S.

J. M. Ramsey  
Supt.



Statement of the Deposits and Coinage, at the Branch Office at New Orleans, in the month of  
October 1846.

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans  
Treasurer's Office, October 31<sup>st</sup> 1840

McBammack  
Treasurer



Forwarding Bills of Lading Nos. 61 & 63.

Mont. Mont.

Nov. 2d, 1840.

Sir, <sup>†</sup> (See below)

On the 28th of Sept., I sent you a letter, (under date of the 28th,) replying to yours of the <sup>6th</sup> 11th on the subject of Extra Assays, - to Mr. Cummings' inquiries respecting the Subtreasury, - and sending a copy of our Profit & Loss Statement for reimburse of foreign coins, - and lastly asking your Estimate for 1841, at as early a day as possible. I have not yet received an answer to this letter and I am apprehensive of the same difficulties as to your estimate as were presented last year. Indeed, my <sup>general</sup> estimate for the Mont and its Branches, is detained now only for this essential document.

Very

R. M. P.

To  
Mr. W. Kennedy, Esq.

Sup. Br. Mont.

Mont. Mont.

<sup>†</sup> I send herewith two Bills of Lading for articles shipped by us for the use of your Mint. Other articles ordered will be forwarded as soon as they are in readiness.



U. S. Branch Mint  
New Orleans, Oct 4, 1840

Sir,

I send you our statement for September  
which I recd. from the Treasurer yesterday. I  
also enclose a copy of a report from our Comr,  
enumerating certain articles that he will require  
for his Department, and stating their probable  
cost. For the payment of such of them as  
are to be purchased in Philadelphia, Mr.  
Cammack will, in a day or two, send you a  
check. Mr. Tyler informs me that it will  
be necessary to import the Rolls from England.  
Will you do me the favor to order them for  
us, with instructions to ship them to this  
Port. J. Riddell is expected to day. We  
are now ready to recommence operations, with  
every thing in complete order.

R. M. Patterson Esq.  
Director of the Mint of  
the U. S.  
Philad<sup>a</sup>

Very respectfully,  
Yr. obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
J. M. McKim  
Jr.



Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of  
September 1840

Kind of Deposit	Deposites						Coinage					
	Assay Weight		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions		Denomination	Number of pieces
	Ounces	Grains	Ounces	Grains	Dollars	Cts	Dollars	Cts	Dollars	Cts		
Sold:												
None												
Silver:												
Foreign Bullion	229	55	249	44	290	25	289	51				
Foreign Coins	283	60	275	76	320	58	320	58				
									611	13		
Total deposits									611	13		

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans  
Treasurer's Office, September 30<sup>th</sup> 1840  
H. C. Hammett  
Treasurer



Albion N. S.  
Sept. 26/40.

Sir,  
I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst. enclosing a copy of one to you from Dr. Hunt.

I am surprised to find that Dr. Hunt supposes the 7th section of the act of May 19th 1828 to have reference to the analysis of ores, when the terms of act are explicit, - that "it shall be lawful for the Director of the Mint to receive, and cause to be assayed, bullion not intended for coinage, and to cause certificates to be given of the fineness thereof." The circumstances which gave rise to this ~~act~~ enactment are known to us here, and it is certain that it had no reference to the analysis of ores.

Now I have no hesitation in saying that the analysis of minerals, as proposed by Dr. Hunt, cannot be considered a Mint <sup>very</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>business</sup>; while it is perfectly right and desirable that <sup>an independent</sup> "he" should make them, if he is so disposed, and that he should be remunerated for his trouble and skill by a proper charge. On the part of the government there must be no charge; but Dr. Hunt will take care either not to use



the materials belong to the government,  
or to replace them, or to pay for them  
their just value.

I thank you for the explanations relative  
to the small deposits. Some statements  
Correspondents seem set upon doing all the  
mischief they can to your institution, and  
I have often to come out in your defence.

I have received this morning, a letter  
from Mr. Cammash <sup>(of the 15th inst.)</sup> on the subject of your  
arrangements for the Subtreasury, with a plan  
exhibiting the changes proposed in your build-  
ing in order to accommodate it. It is  
difficult for me to form a correct estimate  
of the relative advantages of the two schemes,  
but, with my imperfect knowledge of the  
circumstances, I feel disposed to prefer the  
plan which places the Subtreasury in the  
principal story. My reasons are, first,  
that it is more safe to have all the vaults  
on the same floor, as they are more readily  
watched, and are ~~always~~ <sup>constantly</sup> more under the  
eye of the officers. Secondly, the Treasurer having  
to attend to the business, both of the Mint  
and the Subtreasury, it must be inconvenient  
to have the places of doing performing these  
functions so far separated. Thirdly,  
if the Mint Clubs, or any ~~one~~ of them, are

to be employed also, in ~~some cases~~ in the Subtreas-  
ury, it will be almost impossible to ensure that  
the officers and vaults <sup>of the two departments</sup> be ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> to each other. I  
do not think that more than one Subtreasury  
clerk will be allowed, and I do not think  
it consistent even with security that he should  
be placed in an office in the basement story,  
communicating directly out of doors, and far  
from the other officers and clerks.

Mr. Cammash asks me what ~~arrangements~~ <sup>arrangements</sup>  
have been made here for the accommodation of the  
Subtreasury. I answer that our Commissioner, Mr.  
Peck, gave up his private office in the prin-  
cipal story, and took one up stairs; and  
that he also gave up a part of his bullion  
vault, which was partitioned off, and has  
a door opening into the Subtreasury office.  
We also fitted up a large vault in the base-  
ment story, but ~~it~~ have not yet had occa-  
sion to use it.

I send enclosed the forms of warrant  
used for the receipt of foreign coins belonging  
to the government.

P.S. - Please to send me as early as possible, your estimate for 1841.  
I am called upon for them by the Treasury Department.

Yrs. M. Kennedy, Esq.  
Sup. Br. Mint,  
Wash. D.C.

A. M. P.



United States Branch Mint  
New Orleans Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> 1840.

To J. M. Kennedy Esq  
Superintendent

2

The articles which I propose to purchase in Philadelphia are as follows.

1 Bar of Cast Steel 3 inch Square

[illegible]

an assortment of Small Size, flat, round & square,

amounting in all to about \$25. .... Say \$25.

3 doz. flat rough fish, 10-12 & 13 inches.

3 doz. 1/2 round do do 10-12 & 13 "

$\frac{1}{2}$  doz flat smooth do 13

Also an assortment including some button cut

Saw files, 4-6-8 inchy.

Some small flat, round & half round smooth fish

amounting to about \$25. Lay \$25.

3 or 400 pinnules clean rays	20-
------------------------------	-----

50 feet of 4 inch belt - Side of belt leather 20

Grand An assortment of Emery paper 3

100 file hands,

Small magnifying glass . . . . . \$100.

It will soon be necessary to get a new supply of Ropes, as

we have only one pair now, not in use. I should think  
 the highest bid will cost \$240.

it better to order 6 pairs which will cost \$240.

I shall send a Memorandum



To my brother of such inquiries as I think  
most important in the Phil. Mnt  
Very resp. &

Yr faithful son  
Sig<sup>d</sup> Philos B. S. Jr  
Comer



Minut Men  
Sept. 24/44.

Sir,

By a letter just received from the other  
Minut Men, I learn that it is the wish of Mr.  
Kennedy and your brethren that you should be  
again ~~employed~~ in that establishment, and  
they think it desirable that you should spend  
a few days at this Minut, on your road.  
You might, by so doing, get some infor-  
mation that would be useful, and I  
need hardly say that every opportunity  
~~will be~~ <sup>will be</sup> cheerfully affor-  
ded to you here.

The question is Mr. Kennedy says he  
thinks it just that your pay should count  
from the time of your accepting your com-  
mitment, and setting out for its fulfil-  
ment, but he refers to me the question  
of your travelling expenses. I have to state  
that this point has been settled by the  
Secretary of the Treasury, who has decided,  
in a recent case, that travelling expenses  
shall not be allowed to men engaged  
for the Minut.

To  
Mr. Stephen Tyler.  
Springfield,  
Mass.

P. M. P.  
Director.



Mint M.S.

Sept. 24/40.

Sir, I have just received your letter of the 13th inst., enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Tyler, on the subject of a proposed visit to be made to this Mint by his brother Nelson. I shall write to this gentleman immediately, and mention the proposition to him; but a decision lately made by the Secretary of the Treasury forbids any allowance being made, for ~~or~~ ~~for~~ travelling expenses, to persons engaged for the Mint.

The most important improvement introduced into our coining presses is the spring collar, which I understand to be already adopted at your Mint. We have also ~~designed~~ made a substitute for the counterweight in two of our presses, but the counterweight is still used in the other two, and they operate perfectly well.

We have no funds for the expenses incurred here for your Mint, and we already owe on your account \$98.92. Trusting your orders for your Mint will cost nearly \$600 more.  
I have to procure for us a remittance of ~~about~~ \$700.

Wm. A. Alexander Esq.  
Asst. Dir. Mint

R. M. P.



Mint of the United States  
Philadelphia Sep. 16, 1840.

Sir,

Dr. Riddell has finished his visit at Philadelphia, and now sets out on his return to New Orleans, by the way of Washington, where he will see you. His stay at our Mint has, I am sure, been of the greatest importance to him in connection with his official duties at New Orleans, and will be favorably felt in the future operations at the Mint there.

When leave was given him to make a visit to our institution, it was with the express stipulation that his expenses were to be borne by himself. He can therefore present no claim except on the generosity and sense of justice of the Department. But on a review of the whole case, I am disposed to think that these ought to be extended to him. His visit was for the public benefit, by giving him opportunities of acquiring a practical acquaintance with some essential operations which he could not otherwise have obtained. The same opportunity was given to other officers of the New Orleans Mint, — to the Assayer for example, — and their traveling expenses were paid. In considering this question it should not be forgotten that the salaries of the officers at the New Orleans Mint are very low for so expensive a city.

Very Respectfully,  
Your faithful servant  
A. M. P.

Hon. Louis Woodbury,  
Sec. of Treas.



Treasurer's Office U. S. Branch Mint  
New Orleans, September 12<sup>th</sup> 1840

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 19<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> August.

Enclosed herewith, I send you an estimate of expenses to be incurred under the 14<sup>th</sup> Section of the Act of 4 July 1840, for the quarter ending 30<sup>th</sup> instant.

I feel very much embarrassed as to the Clerks it will be necessary to employ, in consequence of the additional duties to be performed by me, as depositary of the Public Money, owing to the inadequacy of the Salaries allowed by the law. For the pay of eight hundred dollars per annum, I cannot secure the services of capable and trustworthy persons, and I am at a loss what to do. Thus far, the business has been done by the Clerks & Porters attached to the Mint. The Salary paid to the Clerks now in the Mint is small, and is less than young men of their capacity usually receive in other employ, and if there is no objection to their receiving additional pay under the Independent Treasury Bill, for services, I could arrange by having the salaries of two Clerks allowed to this Office, the one to be paid to the best person to be procured for that sum, and the other to be left to me to be paid as I may think best to the present Clerks for extraordinary services. I have asked in the estimate which I send \$266.67 for two Clerks from 1<sup>st</sup> August. This is subject to your approbation and advice. The Treasury Clerk & the weigh-master have performed the duties, and if you think it proper, I will be glad they may



be paid.

Enclosed I have you also, estimate for securing and building vaults, together with a plan showing the contemplated changes and additions. There are two estimates, one for the vaults on the basement story, and the other on the second floor. It will be much more convenient to have the vaults on the second floor if practicable, as all the other business of the Treasury is conducted in that story, but such I fear cannot be done. For though there are vaults brought in this story, there is no room that could be used without interfering with some of the other offices for receiving, paying & counting money, except the weighing room, which is not calculated for more than the ordinary operations of the Mint. The vaults on the ground floor, although dark, damp and unpleasant can be made large and strong, and it is the opinion of the Superintendent that they should be selected.

I am very respectfully  
Your obt. servt  
H. C. Hammett

Hon. Liv. Woodbury  
Treas. of the Treasury

Dear Sir

Annexed I hand you copy of a letter which I have written to the Secretary of the Treasury and enclosed with the present is copy of the plan referred to therein.

I send you these because I believe that you will be gratified to know what I am doing, and because you can perhaps assist me with your advice.

Will you be kind enough to inform me what alterations have been made in Philadelphia and what vaults & rooms are used by the Treasurer for keeping the public moneys.

I am very truly  
Yr faithful servt  
H. C. Hammett

Treasurer's Office  
New Orleans, 15 Sept 40.

To  
Dr R. M. Patterson  
Director U. S. Mint.



W. Branch Mint  
New Orleans, Sep 13. 1840

Sir,

You will find enclosed a copy of a communication to me from our Comr. Mr. Nelson Tyler, of whom he speaks, has already been employed as foreman of the Coining department, and his services there were highly valuable. It would give me great satisfaction to see him return to the Mint in the same capacity, but, the request made in the communication aforementioned, I must leave to you. He would no doubt not only require his salary to commence with the date of his engagement / which w<sup>d</sup> be proper enough / but would also expect his passage out here to be paid by the Mint. This I will not take it upon myself to authorize. If you should come to the conclusion, for the reasons given by Mr. Tyler, to accede to his request, you w<sup>d</sup> much oblige me by writing to him brother yourself. Please him, if you think proper, your best previous terms.

I am very respectfully,

J. M. McKim

A. M. Patterson Esq. -  
Director of the Mint at the U. S.